

2 Israelis stabbed in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Two Israelis were stabbed near the walls of the Old City in occupied Jerusalem on Saturday, Jerusalem hospital officials said. The two were taken to the Bikur Holim and Shaarei Tzedek hospitals. An official at Shaarei Tzedek hospital who asked not to be identified, said one victim, a 25-year-old man, was undergoing an operation after suffering multiple stab wounds in the chest. He was listed in medium condition. The official refused to give his name. An official at Bikur Holim Hospital identified the second victim as Avi Ohayon, 24, and said he was in satisfactory condition. The Jerusalem police spokesman was unavailable for comment on the incident. Tensions between Arabs and Israelis have been high in the city since the Nov. 15 stabbing death of a Jewish religious seminary student in the Arab side of the city.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Arab League welcomes U.N. call

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League has welcomed a call this week by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a Security Council meeting at foreign minister level to try to end the Iran-Iraq war. The General Secretariat of the 21-member League said in a statement that such a meeting "should constitute a turning point" in the search for a peace settlement. The Security Council has the means under the U.N. charter to "take a number of measures to impose peace and to force the recalcitrant party (Iran) to conform to international wishes," the statement added. Bahrain welcomed the U.N. call, with Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa saying in a statement: "This is a positive move, and we hope the U.N. will shoulder its responsibility in maintaining peace and security in the region."

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Injured Palestinians leave Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — The Lebanese Red Cross Saturday evacuated four wounded Palestinians, including two commandos, from a South Lebanon refugee camp besieged by Shi'ite Muslim militiamen, witnesses said. They said Amal militiamen, who have ringed Rashidiyah camp near Tyre since Sept. 30, allowed two Red Cross vehicles to evacuate the two fighters and two women.

Saudi education minister dies

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia's minister of higher education, Sheikh Hassan Abdullah Al Sheikh, died Saturday after a heart attack at the age of 55, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Bourguiba pardons 1,214 prisoners

TUNIS (R) — President Habib Bourguiba granted total or partial pardons Saturday to 1,214 prisoners to mark Tunisia's Revolution Day Sunday, the official TAP news agency said.

53 die in Filipino boat accident

CEBU CITY, Philippines (AP) — At least 53 people died and an undetermined number of others were missing after a boat carrying participants to a Roman Catholic festival sank near an island in the central Philippines, coast guard authorities said Saturday.

18 drown in southern India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Eighteen people drowned Saturday when a boat sank in southern India, the United News of India (UNI) reported. The agency, quoting district officials, said the boat capsized in the Krishna River in Mahabubnagar district in Andhra Pradesh state, about 400 kilometres south of the state capital of Hyderabad.

15 Muslim pilgrims drown in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — At least 15 Muslim pilgrims drowned when a boat carrying them was in collision and capsized in a river north of Dhaka Friday, police said Saturday.

Group claims fire at U.K. plane factory

SALISBURY, England (R) — A shadowy British anarchist group called the "Angry Brigade" said Saturday it started an overnight fire at a factory producing the revolutionary "bug eye" plane, was arson. The fire caused damage estimated at £4 million (\$6 million) at the Optica factory near this south western town where the revolutionary observation plane dubbed "bug eye," sometimes described as a "flying light bulb," is produced.

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Iraqi jets raid Khomeini's headquarters in Tehran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked the Tehran headquarters of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and other targets in Iran and the Gulf Saturday.

As ground troops fought fierce battles east of the southern port city of Basra, a High Command communique said a "heroic formation" had attacked the headquarters of the Iranian leader at 12:05 p.m. (0905 GMT). In Tehran, a loud explosion was heard at 0910 GMT followed by anti-aircraft fire and air raid sirens, and Tehran Radio later said three people were killed. Baghdad residents saw dozens of jets heading eastwards early Saturday, and the official Iraqi News Agency INA said the planes had also destroyed a surface-to-air missile base across the border and a large naval target in the Gulf. The expression "large naval target" is usually taken to mean a merchant ship or an oil tanker, but there was no immediate confirmation of the attack from Gulf shipping sources. An Iraqi military spokesman reported "destructive" air raids Friday night on three other Iranian cities — Dezful, Esfahan and Tabriz. The raids were to avenge Iraqi civilians killed in Iranian missile, air and artillery attacks on Baghdad and other cities, he said. In ground fighting, Iraqi field commanders were reported as saying they had defeated Iranian attempts to recapture lost ground on the southern front, where Iran launched a cross-border thrust nine days ago. One said eight Iranian Revolutionary Guards divisions had been put out of action, while an Iranian armored division and several army brigades had been destroyed. This was the first indication from the Iraqi side that Iranian regular army forces were taking part in the fighting on the southern front. Iranian regular army troops are

also fighting in the central sector of the warfront, 450 kilometres north of Basra and 120 kilometres east of Baghdad. Iraq says the Iranian offensive in that sector has been repelled. The raid on Tehran, the first this year, came after four Iranian missile strikes at Baghdad within a week, which officials said killed or wounded many civilians. Precise casualty figures were not given. Another 95 civilians were killed and 562 were injured in Iranian attacks over the past week, according to official figures. Friday night's war communique reported nine civilians killed and 63 injured by Iranian air and artillery attacks on Basra and two northern towns. Diplomats in Baghdad said a Basra hotel was hit by shells earlier this week, and some Basra residents, including personnel of foreign companies, had moved to safer areas. INA said Iraqi jets had flown 1,854 sorties and helicopter gunships 1,444 combat missions since the start of the latest Iranian offensive in the south on Jan. 9. It said over a dozen Iranian cities and towns had been attacked

Iraq confident it can repel any Iranian advance on Basra...

By Lami K. Andoni in Baghdad
IRAQ IS confident of its ability to repel any attempt by Iranian forces to advance on the eastern sector of Basra and establish a stronghold in Iraq's southern city, according to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. Mr. Ramadan said that Iraqi forces were ready for Iran's long-heralded final offensive and promised heavy casualties on the Iranian side. On the evening of Jan. 9, Iran launched its second large offensive against Iraq in two weeks and Iranian frogmen successfully infiltrated the swamps and an artificial water barrier known as Fish Lake to solid ground six to eight miles east of the southern port of Basra. The Iraqi army was able to repulse the attack and drive them back to the swamps between the Fish Lake and the borders. Military experts believe that

Iran was trying to pave the way towards Basra by overtake and exhausting the Iraqi defence lines. The next steps would be to send troops from the Fao Island south of Basra to encircle the city and capture it. Mr. Ramadan said there was "no way that Iraq would allow Iran to achieve such goals." The Iranians have also struck three times last week against the central operational sector around 120 kilometres east of Baghdad. The Iraqi army declared that it had successfully repulsed the Iranian troops. According to Mr. Ramadan the Iranians started massing up troops on the central borders a while before their first offensive on Dec. 25. "The attack against the central sector was planned as part of the same offensive against the south, but when the army crushed the invasion swiftly and in less than 40 hours, the Iranians had to retreat goes ahead. On Saturday, armoured cars were deployed outside the 99 acre (44 hectare) palace grounds, which are surrounded by a three kilometre long fortress-like wall. Razor wire, concrete and metal barriers and electronic surveillance equipment provide additional protection. OIC officials have said the meeting will be held as planned.

...Calls U.S. arms deal 'immoral'

By Lami K. Andoni in Baghdad
BAGHDAD — A senior Iraqi official has said that the American arms shipments to Iran and the supply by Washington of misleading intelligence to Iraq was aimed at prolonging the war in an attempt to reassert the U.S. influence in the vital region. "The U.S. wanted to ensure the continuation of the war so that it could use the Iranian threat to pressure the Gulf states to accept its intervention and allow the setting up of American military bases in the region," Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said. He said that the American decision reflected an anticipation that the Iranian regime would return to the American camp and serve its interests in the region. "The Iranian regime, in its structure and set up, and being as reactionary as it is, constitutes a perfect project for a regime that can serve the American interest against the Arab World," Mr. Ramadan told the Jordan Times. He said that elements in Tehran, led by Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, have maintained strong channels with the Americans since 1981. "Rafsanjani was the one who arranged the American-Iranian deal to release the American diplomats who were taken hostage in the American embassy in Tehran," he said. The Iraqi leader confirmed the U.S. had been supplying Iraq with false and misleading information about the movement of Iranian troops, which he said led to the Iraqi loss of the Fao Island near the Kuwaiti borders. Asked about the Iraqi reaction

to the U.S., Mr. Ramadan said that Baghdad sent an angry message to Washington questioning whether the American aim was to "allow Iran to occupy Iraq." But the Americans, according to Mr. Ramadan, said it was not done on purpose and that they had sent whatever information was available. Mr. Ramadan said the Americans "again underestimated the Iraqi level of intelligence when they claimed that their secret arms deal with Iran did not reflect a real change in the American position towards the war. They think we are politically naive." He described the American action as "immoral." Mr. Ramadan said last August Iraq started receiving information from a special intelligence unit set up at the American embassy in Baghdad. Asked why Iraq continued to take the information despite its realization that the Americans have misled them before the battle of Fao, Mr. Ramadan said that following the incident they had doubts about everything they received from the Americans and had been receiving information from other sources without solely relying on the American information. "But it was not until the revelations of the secret American-Iranian deal that we realized that it was actually part of a bigger and premeditated design," he said. Asked what could the U.S. do to repair the damage Mr. Ramadan said: "The recent American actions have seriously damaged our bilateral relations and destroyed all bridges of trust between U.S."

Kuwait inaugurates summit palace

KUWAIT (R) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, inaugurated amid tight security a new palace built to host an Islamic summit meeting later this month. The 110 million dinar (\$385 million) Palace of Congress 10 kilometres south of Kuwait City was built specially for the Jan. 26-28 summit of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Iran has said it will not attend the summit because of Kuwaiti backing for Iraq in the Gulf war and two clandestine groups in Lebanon holding Western hostages — Islamic Jihad (holy war) and the Revolutionary Justice Organisation — have threatened action if the meeting goes ahead. On Saturday, armoured cars were deployed outside the 99 acre (44 hectare) palace grounds, which are surrounded by a three kilometre long fortress-like wall. Razor wire, concrete and metal barriers and electronic surveillance equipment provide additional protection. OIC officials have said the meeting will be held as planned.

Shultz 'will not abandon' Reagan despite 'Irangate'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Pledging his loyalty to President Ronald Reagan during trouble, Secretary of State George Shultz has said he expects to stay at his post "and hang around to help him." At a news conference, Mr. Shultz said that despite their disagreement over shipping arms to Iran, he had a good relationship with the president and would not abandon him. "I am a Reagan supporter. I've been a Reagan supporter for a long time...I think the president has accomplished really tremendous things," Mr. Shultz said. "So right now he has some problems, that's a good time for me to hang around and help him." Mr. Shultz privately opposed the U.S. arms shipments to Iran and made his opposition known after the president's decision became known in November. Testifying Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance suggested Mr. Shultz should have resigned. Without mentioning Mr. Shultz by name, Mr. Vance said when a cabinet officer is overruled by a president on a matter of "core values" about which the cabinet member feels very deeply, "the secretary should resign."

the U.S. administration clears." The comments by the Egyptian leader, whose country is the only Arab country to have a peace treaty with Israel, appeared to confirm Arab media reports that the recent Mideast swing by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy was a failure. Mr. Mubarak warned Washington of "dire consequences...because of loss of credibility" following the arms deal disclosures. "I can now say the United States has totally lost credibility in the Arab region and maybe in the whole world," he said. The president rejected the U.S. argument that it had tried to encourage "moderates" in the Tehran government. "These justifications are unacceptable and illogical...supporting the moderate elements? What elements? The moderates and the others have attacked the U.S. after the disclosure of the matter. "I repeat, the deal was the worst that could ever be made." Mr. Mubarak quoted unidentified European leaders as saying the United States has also lost credibility with them. "Major efforts are now

Syrians take positions at Beirut airport

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops deployed at Beirut's international airport Saturday, reinforcing Lebanese security men in an apparent bid to deter artillery attacks. Official sources said an unspecified number of soldiers took up positions at the entrance and other key areas of the airport, which lies in the city's Shi'ite Muslim southern suburbs. "Their mission is to take part in facilitating movement of passengers," an official said. Until Saturday, a Lebanese force backed by Syrian security men has supervised the arrival and departure of passengers. The airport was closed for more than 10 hours when it was shell

Former Lebanese presidents discuss Gemayel-Assad rift

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel consulted three former presidents, all Maronite Christians like himself, Saturday on moves to head his year-long rift with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, official sources said. "I have great hope that the existing agreement among us will continue regarding the issues of internal reform and relations between Lebanon and Syria," elder statesman Camille Chamoun, 86, told reporters after the meeting. Mr. Gemayel, Sulaiman Franjeh and Charles Helou declined to comment and details of their discussions were not known, but the sources said further meetings were planned. Mr. Gemayel has sent envoys shuttling back and forth between Beirut and Damascus over the past three weeks to try to end his quarrel with Mr. Assad and prepare for a summit meeting. Relations between the two presidents have been icy since Mr. Gemayel turned down a Syrian-brokered peace plan for Lebanon last January. Falangist politicians and militia leaders, including Mr. Chamoun, feared the accord would mean the loss of Falangist political prerogatives in favour of the Muslim majority and give Syria an unwarranted role in Lebanese affairs. Saturday's talks took place at a heavily-guarded army barracks at Sma'ar Jbeil in the Syrian-controlled Batroun region, 45 kilometres north of Beirut. The barracks is near a line separating territory dominated by the pro-Syrian Franjeh and that held by the anti-Syrian Lebanese forces Christian militia led by Samir Geagea. Mr. Franjeh, a close ally of Damascus, supported the still-born pact, signed by the three main Falangist and opposition militias, with some reservations on proposed political reforms. He has been at odds with Mr. Gemayel's family since militiamen led by Mr. Geagea, then a lieutenant of the president's late brother Bashir, raided his summer quarters on June 13, 1978. Mr. Franjeh's son Tony, his daughter-in-law and 30 other Franjeh loyalists were killed. Mr. Geagea took over the Lebanese Forces in bloody street battles last January, ousting former militia chief Elie Hobeika, Falangist signatory to the Syrian-backed peace deal. Mr. Franjeh has repeatedly called for Mr. Gemayel's resignation, referring to him contemptuously as the "sick head."

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 3)

BEIRUT (R) — British church envoy Terry Waite, in Beirut since Monday on a mission to free foreign hostages, said Saturday he was pleased that the captors of two Americans had sent photographs of them to a local newspaper.

On previous visits to Beirut, the Anglican Church envoy had



Terry Waite

Twenty foreigners are missing in Lebanon, apparently held by radical groups.

Mr. Waite gave no details of his talks with Mr. Hoss, a former prime minister and an ex-professor at AUB.

University staff have been a

ridiculous and estimate Tripoli has about 8,000 troops in the north.

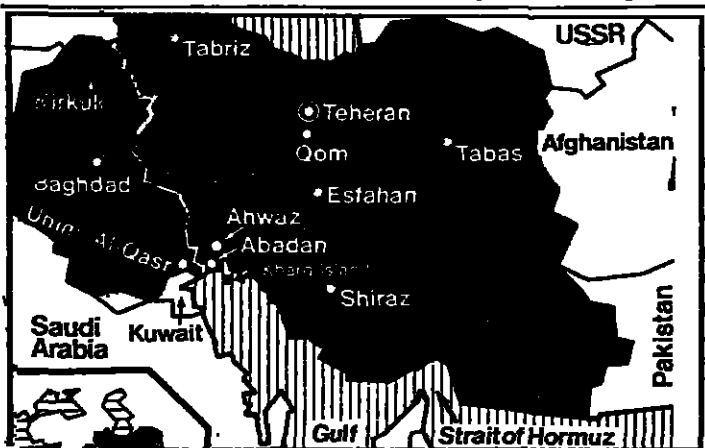
Zem's 18-month-old son escaped unharmed by hiding in a closet during the attack.

The official Omani News Agency quoted the minister as saying Portuguese-Omani ties

the Sulfanate, some of which date back to Portuguese rule there in the 16th century.

An Israeli spokesman reached by the Associated Press said he

on American equipment and in those quantities," he said.



Agency quoted the minister as saying Portuguese-Omani ties

An Israeli spokesman reached by the Associated Press said he

Leviatan realised the armaments were intended for Iran "the moment he (Eisenberg) insisted on American equipment and in those quantities," he said.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence 271293	271293, 271313
Civil Defence Qwasneeh	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	63044
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	611111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	8963901
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	77125/6
Queen Aila Int. Airport	(08) 3333060

AMMAN:	
Dr. Nabil Meridi	615338
Dr. Issa Nejjar	674430
Sakun pharmacy	636730
Nekroth's pharmacy	723672
Khalid pharmacy	668653
Salah pharmacy	661912
Sabah pharmacy	668064
Hinawi pharmacy	845376
TAXIS:	
Al Azhar taxi	663911
Shmeisil taxi	665246
Asm taxi	844503
Malayir taxi	644574
Khayran taxi	841577
Al Amiri taxi	771051
Al Taj taxi	774191

IRBID:	
Dr. Amin Abu Abdo	244468
Al Far pharmacy	(-)
Basul pharmacy	(-)

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Abdell Maternity, J. Ann	644281/6
Alkheh Maternity, J. Ann	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Muhass, J. Amman	636140
Paletine, St Joseph	664167
St Joseph's Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845/65
Al-Munster Hospital	66727/29
The Islamic, Abdall	666703/7
Al-Ahli, Abdall	664164/6
Irbid, Al-Muhajren	777101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ahrufieh	777113/26
Army, Warka	891611/15
Al-Ahli Hospital	60201/2
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:	
Dr. Muaid Dhanna	985522
Bani pharmacy	(-)
Emishi pharmacy	(-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	7731/1/9
Radio Jordan	77411/9/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Tour complaints	666131
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fits per kg.

Apple (double red and stacked)	280 / 240
Apple (green)	280 / 240
Apple (golden)	450 / 400
Banana	300 / 260
Banana (Mikammar)	250 / 220
Bears	300 / 220
Broad beans	650 / 600
Buckwheat	120 / 80
Cabbage	60 / 40
Carrot (black)	160 / 120
Carrot (yellow)	130 / 100
Cauliflower	60 / 40
Chestnut	620 / 550
Cucumber	340 / 280
Eggplant (small)	250 / 200

Eggplant (large)	180 / 130
Garlic	600 / 550
Grapefruit	140 / 100
Lemon	100 / 70
Melon	160 / 100
Onion (dry)	180 / 140
Onion (green)	160 / 120
Orange (Abu Shura)	250 / 200
Orange (Shamouti)	200 / 150
Pears	650 / 600
Potter (peck)	280 / 200
Potatoes (sweet)	320 / 260
Potato	210 / 160
Radish	100 / 70
Spinach	120 / 180
Strawberries	2200 / 2000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad condole Serhan tribes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Saturday deputed the director of his office Turki Al Khreisha to convey condolences to Al Serhan tribes in Mafrqa on the death of Major General Atallah Ghasseb. The late Maj.-Gen. Ghasseb, 54, was a prominent army officer.

Airline donates blankets to the needy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian airline has donated 16,000 blankets to needy and old people in Jordan and the blankets will be distributed through the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. A spokesman for the ministry said that the donation was received on Saturday and will be distributed to homes for the old, orphans and needy persons in the country. The spokesman voiced appreciation to the national airline for the humanitarian gesture and he praised the carrier for its contributions to the development of Jordan in various fields.

JNRCS okays JD 40,391 budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) on Saturday endorsed a JD 40,391 budget for 1987 and approved a general report on last year's activities and programmes. The budget allocation, which registers an increase of nearly JD 2,000 over that of last year, will be used to carry out the society's various activities. During its meeting, the JNRCS assembly re-elected Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura to serve as board director for the coming year and elected Mrs. Margaret Qattan as deputy director.

Dakhqa fixes taxi fares to airport

AMMAN (Petra) — Taxis which transport tourists or other passengers from their hotels in Amman to the Queen Alia International Airport will charge JD 5 for the trip if no meters are installed in their cars, according to instructions issued Saturday by Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqa. According to the instructions, taxis will charge according to meter readings with the addition of JD 1 for the trip from Amman or other towns to the airport. Also, 250 fils will be charged for every bag in excess of one large suitcase.

Committee to campaign for Iraq

SALT (Petra) — The Balqa Governorate people's committee for supporting Iraq met at Fuhais municipality on Saturday with representatives of the economic, social and voluntary sectors in Fuhais and Mahees attending the discussions. The committee discussed means of rendering financial and moral support to Iraq and also decided to organise a campaign to collect donations for this purpose from the various sectors in the two towns.

Foundation to review Arab atlas project

AMMAN (Petra) — Association of Arab Universities (AAU) President Mohammad Faraj Dugheim on Saturday left for Iraq to take part in the meetings of the Arab World atlas foundation which will open in Baghdad on Monday. The three-day meetings will discuss, among other topics, the progress made in the Arab World atlas project as well as the foundation's plan of action for 1987.

UDD director leaves for Sweden

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Urban Development Department (UDD), Dr. Hisham Al Zagh, left for Sweden on Saturday to take part in a symposium on the employment of modern technology in the execution of urban and regional development projects. Taking part in the symposium, due to open on Sunday, are scientists, technicians and planners from around the world.

French magician entertains all

AMMAN (J.T.) — In cooperation with the French Cultural Centre, the Amra Hotel has presented a series of shows by the famous French magician, Mr. Jacques Delord, who performed an entertaining show at the Jericho room of the hotel. Mr. Delord is a well-known magician in France and throughout Europe. He is performing in Jordan for the first time and is looking forward to returning. His last performance is Sunday at the hotel.

Bumper bunch of French and British films

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tales of adventure in a world of politics and crime, conflicts of love and hate, danger and suspense, and a fantastic journey into space and time are some of the themes in a series of French films which began Saturday night and continue until Thursday.

The French Cultural Centre has once again brought several successful films to entertain the public. The films, which are being screened at the Concorde Cinema, are a varied selection to suit the tastes of children, youth and adults.

On Saturday night there were three films, kicking off with "Souvenirs, Souvenirs" — a movie enjoyed by youth because it portrays the rock and roll era in France in the 1960s. Director Ariel Zeitoun's feature takes one into Paris' music world during that period. It is the story of two brothers, each living in a different world, and the movie shows how they both develop and grow against the rhythm of rock and roll.

Power of the press

"The Fourth Power" is the power of the press and the title of the second film screened Saturday. Yves is a famous reporter for a daily newspaper. He had a previous love affair with Catherine — a star TV newscaster. They come together again after she discovers that Yves' capture was connected to a political assassination. Serge Leroy's movie explores a conflict of ethics over whether the public should know about this scandal or not.

The late performance Saturday night was Michel Blanc's "Walk in

the Shadow." Francois, a musician, decides to travel the world instead of earning a living behind popular singers. He and his friend, Denis, set off to experience an adventure that takes them all the way to the United States.

Tonight at 6:15 is "I got Married to a Shadow," directed by Robin Davis. This is the story of a pregnant woman, Helen, who is deserted by her husband. After a disaster her life changes and she lives under a false identity. But someone knows this and makes Helen's life frightening and difficult.

At 8:30 is another re-run of "Walk in the Shadow" for those who missed the first performance. At 10:30 is Jacques Rivette's "Love on the Floor" about two young actresses, Charlotte and Emily are best friends and allies until they meet a strange person. Paul. His presence makes the two girls experience a transitional phase in their relationship.

Cartoon for children

There is a special French cartoon film for children on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre. "The secret of the Selenites" is found on the moon. The Baron de Munchausen sets off on a fantastic flight to the moon in 1787 to discover the secret of the inhabitants of the planet. After an adventure in space with his friends, the Baron and his team land in the Kingdom of the Selenites. They become allies with the citizens of the moon and help them combat their enemies, the Verpses. The animated film is directed by Jean Image. The films are all subtitled in English, except for the cartoon, which is in Arabic. Tickets can be obtained from the Concorde cinema and at the French Cultural Centre.

AMPCO breaks into French and Scandinavian markets

AMMAN (J.T.) — A French firm has signed a contract with the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) to market Jordanian agricultural products in France, Belgium and Scandinavian countries.

AMPCO Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan said that the six-month contract is part of the company's drive to market national crops in countries of the European Community.

AMPCO earlier signed similar contracts for marketing vegetables in Britain and West Germany via the Royal Jordanian airline, Mr. Abu Hassan said. He said that several shipments of

Jordanian products have already been made on Royal Jordanian aircraft, adding that AMPCO will soon start exporting via the Red Sea port of Aqaba on board vessels equipped for carrying fruits and vegetables.

In addition, AMPCO sent 32,000 tonnes of produce to Kuwait last year and is continuing to sell products to various Arab countries, mainly Syria which imports Jordanian tomatoes, lemons, squash and eggplants, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, AMPCO is facing competition from Portugal, Spain and Turkey in its attempts to market products in Europe.

Hmoud to visit agricultural projects in southern Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud will today make an inspection tour of agricultural projects in the southern regions of the Kingdom and will also take part in tree planting celebrations to be held there. The minister, who will be accompanied by his under secretary Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, and senior ministry officials, will be visiting Qatraneh and Ma'an.

In Irbid, in the north of the country, the Department of Agriculture said on Saturday that a total of 248,000 forest saplings were planted in Irbid Governorate during the current agricultural season.

The department's director, Dr. Nouredin Al Shubul, said that his department distributed 120,000 tree saplings to citizens free of charge to be planted on their land at their convenience. He said that

the department is in charge of 147,128 dunums of forest land and 24,981 dunums of pasture land in the Irbid region.

Zarqa to plant 196,000 fruit and forest trees

In Zarqa, the Agriculture Department said a total of 46,000 fruit tree saplings and 150,000 forest trees will be planted in the Zarqa region in the current season. The greatest single area of land to be planted with trees lies around the newly-opened Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant. Other areas to be planted with trees are in Azraq and around Zarqa and Ruseifa, the department said. More than 15,000 forest and fruit trees were distributed to citizens free of charge to be planted in Ruseifa, Birein, Bala'ama and Zarqa.

Hawamdeh to head delegation to talks on Arab contracting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will be taking part in the second conference of the Arab Contractors Federation, due to open in Casablanca on Monday, Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh said on Saturday.

Mr. Hawamdeh, who is leading Jordan's delegation to the conference, said that the three-day gathering will discuss a request by the Egyptian contractors union to join the federation and will also review the federation's future programmes.

GUVS appeals for funds to run literacy centres in West Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — A higher committee formed by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has appealed to citizens and organisations to offer more contributions to support an adult education programme in the occupied Arab territories.

The committee said that financial help is urgently required to maintain 215 centres offering education to illiterate men and women in the governorates of Arab Jerusalem, Nablus, and

Hebron on the occupied West Bank. The total cost of keeping these centres running is estimated at JD 100,000 annually, and most of the contributions now come from GUVS, the committee said.

The committee appealed to all social and economic organisations in the East and the West Banks to contribute generously to the humanitarian cause of giving basic education to adult people who missed proper education at an earlier age.

Jordan, Egypt draw up new accords on tourism and marketing

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day visit to Egypt by a delegation from the Tourism Authority, led by its director Nasri Atallah, has resulted in new agreements on carrying out joint tourism projects.

Mr. Atallah, who returned to Amman on Saturday at the end of the visit, said that his talks with Egyptian officials led to agreement on setting up a joint Egyptian-Jordanian work group which will prepare feasibility studies on tourist investment projects to be undertaken by both countries.

The two sides decided to organise a joint variety show in March at the Berlin International Fair where they will present performances by folk troupes from Egypt and Jordan. They also agreed to take a joint pavilion at the Tokyo International Fair, due to be held in November, and to issue joint tourist pamphlets featuring Jordanian and Egyptian tourist attractions, in addition to posters in a number of languages highlighting tourist sites in the two countries, Mr. Atallah continued.

He said that the talks were conducted through a joint Jordanian-Egyptian tourist committee which ended its meetings in Cairo on Thursday.

The next committee meeting, Mr. Atallah said, will be held in Amman just before convening the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting.

Jordan's fuel bill hits \$600m mark for 1986

Experts call for measures to rationalise energy consumption

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's bill for fuel oil last year amounted to \$600 million and is expected to rise in the coming years due to the economic and social growth in the Kingdom, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, under secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said here Saturday.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that urgent measures should be taken to help reduce the fuel bill and that this should go hand in hand with concerted efforts to find alternative sources of energy and to rationalise fuel consumption. The oil bill is a major factor in Jordan's balance of payments and for this reason solar and wind energy and the energy produced from shale should be fully exploited, Dr. Badran continued.

Ministry of Energy studies show that nearly 90 per cent of Jordan's export earnings are soaked up by the oil purchases, which come mainly from Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Badran said that Jordan is one of the countries in the world with limited sources of energy resources that can be exploited on a commercial basis and therefore comprehensive national energy saving programmes should be launched.

Dr. Ali Anani, director of the renewable energy department at the Ministry of Energy, said that since Jordan enjoys sunny days for most of the year, solar energy can be exploited to save the traditional forms of energy and oil fuel.

He said that of the 350,000 homes in Jordan which use electricity, 20 per cent have

installed solar heaters to save power. At least 70,000 solar heaters are now installed in Jordanian homes, but this figure is expected to rise to 250,000 by the year 1995 — nearly covering 50 per cent of Jordanian homes, Dr. Anani continued.

In view of the importance of solar heaters to Jordan, greater and more efforts should be made to improve the production of solar heaters which could, in the long run, contribute to the energy saving programmes in the country, Dr. Anani added.

For this reason, he said, the Ministry of Energy in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has prepared an Arab-Jordanian set of specifications on solar heaters to help factories and producers and has also imported a solar heater simulator which can measure the heaters' efficiency.

Dr. Anani said that the all locally produced solar heaters are being tested at the RSS' energy department and that the Ministry of Energy is conducting regular training courses and holding seminars on the manufacture of solar heaters. A study prepared by the RSS has revealed that an

average family's needs of hot water is estimated to cost them JD 178.5 annually if electricity is used and JD 51 if diesel oil is used and JD 30.3 if solar heaters are used, Dr. Anani continued.

Referring to the exploitation of wind power, Dr. Anani said that experimental tests are underway, adding that power created from both the sun and the wind could be used in remote regions which are not supplied with electricity. He said that a pilot station for exploiting wind power has been built at Jurf Al Darawish to pump water and that similar stations have been set up at Omari and Jafr in the desert regions of Jordan and at Qureiqzeh, some 15 kilometres north of Aqaba. Initial results from these stations have been encouraging, he continued. Dr. Anani went on to say that a major experimental project will be carried out by the Ministry of Energy and the RSS at Ras Mufil in northern Jordan during this year.

Interviewed by Petra, Mr. Mohammad Abu Ajamieh, who is advisor to the minister of energy and mineral resources, said that Jordan has an estimated reserve of 45 billion tonnes of good quality shale which could yield oil at the rate of 10 per cent and that this could supply Jordan's energy needs for hundreds of years. He said that studies are underway and tests on the shale are being carried out in China and West Germany to determine the most profitable way of exploiting the oil shale reserves in Jordan.

Iraq confident it can repel Iranian attacks

(Continued from page 1)

and change their plans," he said. Iran, in the Iraqi official's view, was anticipating a big victory then and that would have allowed it to establish a stronghold in Basra and establish a puppet regime there.

The offensive was preceded by political preparations including the meeting which was held in Tehran in November for the so called Iraqi opposition which was ready to take over.

The meeting was attended by Kurdish and other groups opposed to the Iraqi government. In his view the first offensive was the beginning of the long heralded "final offensive," that Iran has been threatening to launch for the last two years. "But the swift Iraqi defeat forced Iran to hold back and retreat,"

The Iraqis, however, were forced to resume and launch another attack against the eastern Basra sector to weeks later "to cover up for the losses which had reflected badly on the status of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards inside Iran," he said.

While military experts insist that the attack against the eastern sector was carried out by regular troops, Mr. Ramadan said that it was co-ordinated between the Guards and the regular troops.

"The Guards are trying to save their face after their defeat in which they have deployed their elite divisions, while the army, which competes with the Guards is trying to gain the credit for any limited gain this offensive could achieve."

Therefore, the Iraqi official said, the Guards and the troops are likely to continue launching attacks against Iraq in a desperate

attempt to win a limited victory. Mr. Ramadan agreed there was a link between the latest Iranian attacks and the scheduled Islamic summit conference to be held in Kuwait on Jan. 26.

He said: "While Iran was claiming that it would attend the Islamic summit conference before it had launched its aborted offensive, it was really aiming at achieving a big victory such as the takeover of Basra, to prove to the summit that it was maintaining superiority on the ground and consequently influence their decisions or even disrupt the summit."

However, Mr. Ramadan said his country did not pin great hopes on the summit. "We appreciate any stand in support of Iraq but we basically depend on ourselves and the courage of the army to force Iran to accept an end to the war."

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King, Pope hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

Italian leaders, Italian officials said.

A source in the King's entourage told Reuters the Jordanians were very happy with the support Italy expressed for the development plan.

Vatican sources said they believed the Pope and King Hussein discussed prospects for relaunching negotiations that could lead to a peace conference between Jordanians, Israelis and Palestinians.

During a visit to Jordan earlier this month, Cardinal John

O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Bishop of New York, suggested that the Vatican could sponsor a Middle East peace conference.

The Pope and the Vatican support a Palestinian homeland and want Jerusalem to have a special status guaranteeing free access to holy places which are sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews.

The Holy See supports Israel's right to exist and its need for secure borders but wants the issues of the Palestinians, Jerusalem, and territorial questions to be resolved.

Iraqi jets raid Khomeini's headquarters

(Continued from page 1)

Taheri near Dezful.

Iranian artillery shelling killed 18 people and wounded 37 in Basra while three were killed and four wounded in the central border town of Badra, the communice said.

Iraq says more than 100 civilians have been killed and more than 600 injured in Iranian artillery and air attacks in the past week.

Fierce Iranian shelling has forced many people to leave their homes in Basra but some foreign companies have chosen to remain, sources said Saturday.

Shell and rocket fire against the southern port city have been heavy if intermittent since the latest Iranian offensive.

Military analysts and diplomats in Baghdad interviewed over the past five days said they believe Iran is trying to capture Basra in order to shake confidence in the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Basra militarily is not that important, but psychologically, it's crucial," said a Western diplomat.

While most of the analysts are confident Iraq can hold the city, "the question is whether it will be habitable," said another Western diplomat.

Shells have repeatedly smashed into the facade and roof of the city's largest hotel, the Sheraton,

and an attack on Friday set fire to a large gasoline storage tank, sending a cloud of black smoke over the city, according to reporters returning from the city and people contacted there by telephone.

Washington Post reporter Pat Tyler, expelled from the city on Friday by military authorities, said shells fell one minute at times during his one-day stay, and he said many buildings were heavily fortified with sandbags against the onslaught.

One foreign diplomat in Baghdad described the shelling of Basra as "maybe the heaviest in two years," but he said several foreign construction companies in the city had decided to leave their people in the city or its suburbs for now, despite halting work at some site that have come under fire.

"A lot of people have left Basra," said another diplomat. "A lot of people have withdrawn to the west of the city," away from the Iranian fire.

Like all the diplomats and most other knowledgeable sources in Iraq, he spoke on condition of anonymity to protect his government or position.

Basra, Iraq's only commercial port, held 1 million people before the Gulf war began in 1980. It is unclear how many are still there.

"It's still a million people, so even if a few thousand leave, there are still many left," a Western diplomat noted.

U.S. lost all credibility

(Continued from page 1)

required by the United States to regain credibility," he said.

Mr. Murphy, an assistant secretary of state, earlier this week concluded a tour of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel, where he explored chances of reviving the stalled peace initiative.

He also tried to improve the U.S. image in the wake of the Iran arms deal furore, Arab diplomatic sources said.

"I don't imagine seeing anything on the horizon which might indicate that they are going to move or will exert any effort to solve Arab issues," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak rejected the U.S. claim it sold the weapons to Iran, which is opposed by most Arab countries in the 6-year-old Gulf war against Iraq, in a bid to improve relations with Tehran.

"These justifications are neither acceptable nor rational," he said. "Both those who love or hate the United States have agreed on condemning the deal."

Mr. Mubarak said he was "totally surprised" when the arms deal was disclosed and denied he had been tipped off about it by Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi.

Mr. Khashoggi, one of the middlemen in the arms deal, claimed in a U.S. television interview that he had told Mr. Mubarak and other Arab leaders about the shipments before they were made.

Mr. Mubarak advised the fragmented Arabs to unite or "all Arabs will be eaten up bit by bit."

He contended that relations between Egypt and member states of the Arab League were "never severed" following the 1979 treaty with Israel when most league countries broke off diplomatic ties with Cairo in protest.

Alluding to the Gulf states, Mr. Mubarak said: "We merely lack ambassadors, and I have no worries about that."

He has said he expects to meet Arab leaders at an Islamic summit conference in Kuwait on Jan. 26. But he lashed out at critics of Egypt's ties with Israel.

"They blame us for trying to find a solution with Israel, though we think that our moves in this respect are to the benefit of the entire Arab nation," he argued.

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt was still working for a comprehensive Middle East peace that would also address the homeless Palestinians.

He cautioned that "we (Arabs) have continued to reject everything since 1948 and, until now, we have lost everything."

The summit will be attended by a number of Mr. Mubarak's critics, including Syrian President Hafez Assad and Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

Mr. Mubarak said he would "stretch out his hand" to Mr. Assad at the conference.

He said there were secret contacts between Cairo and Damascus two years ago, despite the rift, but noted that Egypt had rejected unspecified Syrian demands.

Mr. Mubarak was apparently referring to Syria's insistence that Cairo must abrogate its treaty with Israel before Egypt can be readmitted to the Arab fold.

"With all due respect to President Assad, an old friend I know very well, the brothers in Syria want Egypt to adopt a certain policy. I will never accept that Damascus lead us on this course, nor would I push Syria to any particular path," he said.

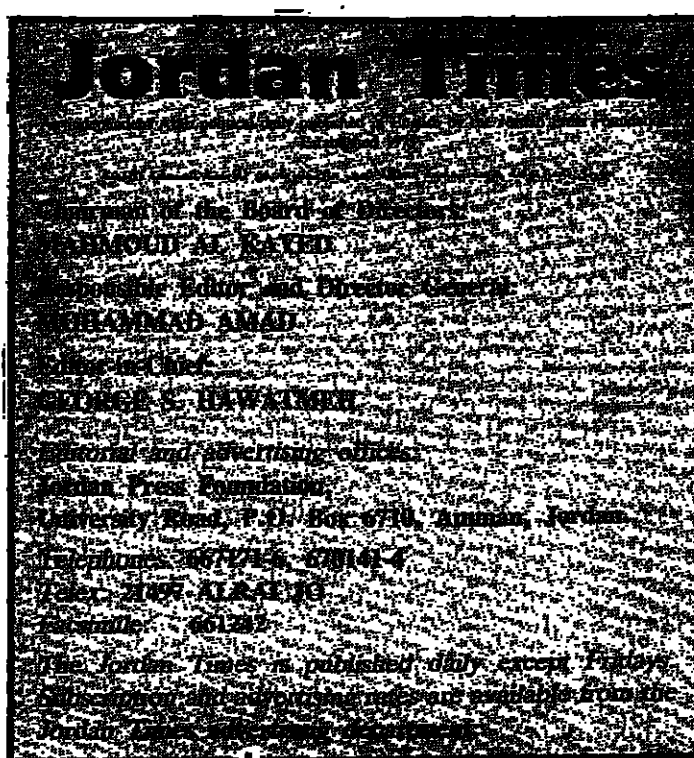
Turning to the Libyan leader, Mr. Mubarak added: "If Qadhafi extends his hand to me I will shake it. But I would first make sure he's not carrying any bombs in it."

Mr. Mubarak said the United States had refused to cut interest rates on Egypt's military debts.

He said the existing rate of 14 per cent required Egypt to pay between \$600 million and \$800 million per year in interest, which was very difficult for the Egyptian economy to bear.

"Since I became president, I have requested the U.S. to reduce the rate. But until now no cut has been made... all the U.S. administration has done is offer a delay in the payment of half the interest until the original loan is repaid."

He had rejected this and other offers that fell short of an interest rate cut, he said.



The missing initiative

IN PAST years, deep-seated ideological differences induced strategic challenges between the two superpowers at the global level. Through a series of action-reaction responses, helped on by periodic technological breakthroughs, the superpowers raced ahead in building up huge nuclear arsenals, enough to annihilate the world several times over.

The nuclear arms race undoubtedly remains the symbol of danger of a nuclear war. However, the superpower relationship today is not what it was in the 50s and 60s. They recognise full well that their survival and security are contingent on their willingness to cooperate with each other. Since both agree that a nuclear war cannot be fought and won by any side, there is no reason why they should not systematically try to effect balanced nuclear arms reduction and eliminate, if possible, all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

A gradual reversal of the nuclear arms race is a forward movement towards the goal of universal peace and security for all. So, will the superpowers come to accept the programme of nuclear arms reduction as a challenge? The world intensely watches their performance in trying to effect a downward spiral in the nuclear arms race.

In sharp contrast to the recent U.S. decision to break out of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-II) of 1979 and the subsequent deployment of B-52 bombers, armed with cruise missiles, in Western Europe, Moscow has decided to abide by that treaty which allowed each side to possess a maximum of 1,320 strategic ballistic missile launchers. The Soviet decision bodes well for the world for it should be recognised that the Soviets have disconnected another link in the action-reaction phenomenon of the nuclear arms race. Earlier, as a significant measure towards nuclear arms control, the Soviets declared a unilateral moratorium on underground nuclear tests which was to be effective until January 1, 1987. In response to this, the U.S. has continued to conduct nuclear tests on various grounds, such as: "To maintain the confidence in America's existing nuclear weapons stockpile; to ensure that necessary military hardware can survive well enough against any potential Soviet nuclear attack; to incorporate the most modern and most capable safety and security systems into modernised nuclear weapons; to avoid technological surprise, due to the inability to know in detail of new nuclear weapons developments in the Soviet Union." These could be suspected as nothing but alibis in order to continue the dangerous nuclear game over which the world has great apprehension.

We can surmise that the Soviets are capable of producing similar alibis in order to maintain the momentum of their nuclear weapons production programmes. But, the Soviets seem to be self-assured and to have scored points in adhering to SALT II and observing the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. What is to be noted — and therein lies the difference between the two superpowers — is that, while the Soviets have adopted nuclear disarmament as a national policy, to be gradually implemented by the turn of the century, the U.S. has been working at an ambivalent policy of making nuclear weapons obsolete by trying to construct a nuclear defence shield in space. The European allies, and others too, are rather sceptical about its success. The world expects that the U.S. should wrench the disarmament peace initiative from the Soviet Union. For this, it may require that the U.S. consider enunciating more viable arms control-disarmament proposals than its space-based defence programme.

The current round of talks that opened in Geneva earlier this week is a good opportunity to build on what has been accomplished already and to open new avenues for breakthroughs. The chance that exists today for reaching agreements between the two superpowers may have never been as good in the past several years; and it may not be better for years to come.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hopes for peace

IN the talks which King Hussein held with Italian leaders, the need for a settlement for the Middle East question was underlined; and the monarch made it clear that the peace process should not be allowed to stall only because of Israel's intransigence and that the aggressors should not be allowed to force capitulation on the Arabs. If the European Community is convinced of the need to move ahead with initiatives to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about a peace to the region, then it will be helping the world to avoid a new dangerous explosion. If Europe succeeds now in rallying world nations' support for the idea of an international conference that would bring an end to the problem, the Europeans would gain more and more credibility and the whole international community would stand to gain from such endeavour. King Hussein's views presented to the Italian leaders were met with interest and understanding, a success he has achieved also in Paris in his meetings with French leaders.

Al Dustour: King rallies Italy for peace

KING Hussein who is now in the second stage of his European tour said that the strong friendly relations between Jordan and Italy find their roots in history, common values and culture and the aspirations of the Arabs and the Italians for peace, stability and security. The Arabs in general and Jordan in particular appreciate Italy's stands vis-a-vis Arab causes, and look to Rome for playing a major role in defusing tension in the Middle East and helping to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arabs remember in particular Italy's role in issuing the European Community's 1980 declaration on the Middle East, which clearly reflected Europe's interest in seeing a just peace prevailing in the Middle East region. The Venice Declaration was in line with the Arab countries' orientation towards peace, and conforms to United Nations resolutions.

Sawt Al Shaab: Europe is for peace

KING Hussein said in an address delivered at a banquet in his honour in Rome that the European countries should take into consideration the strong links they have with the countries of the Middle East and their proximity to the region, and so help establish peace and security in it. The Mediterranean represents a water way for all the countries of Europe and the Middle East, and is regarded as a natural extension to both areas and therefore it is affected positively or negatively by the developments and events in Europe and the Middle East region. We therefore believe that countries on both sides of this great sea should cooperate and pool their efforts and their endeavours to prevent any outbreak of conflicts and hostilities to safeguard their interests. If Europe is keen on protecting its interests and its stability and security, it cannot stand idle and look on as the elements of war and instability continue to exist in our region. King Hussein has been urging the Europeans to take serious action to end this dangerous situation and to help bring peace to the Middle East.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Practical solutions for pressing problems

THE symposium on Arab external indebtedness which was held in Amman last week turned out to be one of the most important seminars organised in the Arab World. It was concluded by the issuance of a comprehensive programme and a clear set of policies and other recommendations put forward to Arab governments to deal with the problem of foreign debts.

The press release issued following the conclusion of the two working days created some waves, and certain recommendations were later deleted due to lack of consensus. These included one on democracy and one on a more liberal and free press which were thought by some participants to be instrumental in combating corruption and mismanagement of public funds. Some participants thought that democracy and freedom of the press were irrelevant to the problems of indebtedness and capital flight in the Arab World and as such they should not be included in the recommendations.

Four research papers were presented covering: Protection of Arab investments abroad, Arab capital flight, facing the dilemma of Arab external indebtedness, and the international dimension of the foreign debts problem.

Few figures and statistics were employed in the working papers, or even in the discussions, as the stress was on policies and options rather than on quantities.

When 50 Arab scholars and decision-makers meet to discuss a hot subject, such as the issue of Arab external indebtedness, one does not expect a consensus to develop. The subject's peculiar circumstances, the degree of risk involved and the size of debt burden in various Arab countries are different, and so are the priorities, perspectives, and backgrounds of the participants themselves.

However, many policies and measures voiced during the seminar appeared to be acceptable to all schools of thought, and accordingly they may well constitute the starting point for everybody. Once a course of action starts in the right direction it is hoped that it will create a momentum of its own, and lead to subsequent steps. The urgent job now is to contain the problem, prevent further deterioration, and then embark on finding solutions.

It was agreed that Arab countries could be the safest place for at least part of Arab investments. However, it was acknowledged that there was much to be done by potential host countries in order to become credible and attractive places for Arab capital. Both public and private capital managers need to be convinced of the soundness of any investment before they could make a decision on it.

It was admitted that corruption was responsible for part of Arab private capital invested or deposited abroad. However, it was also acknowledged that the major part of Arab capital flight does not

simply involve hiding embezzled funds or illegal earnings. In most cases these were proper savings looking for safety and better economic returns. Hence was the seminar's two-fold recommendation to combat corruption through the mechanisms of democracy, freedom of the press and promotion of accountability. This, it was felt, should be coupled by addressing and correcting the factors that contribute to capital flight such as huge budget deficits, unrealistic exchange rates, low or negative domestic interest rates, high inflation, and lack of stability and confidence in the soundness and effectiveness of internal financial, monetary and economic policies. Arab countries were therefore called upon to put their house in order and to create a climate of confidence in the present and future of their national economies.

External indebtedness for a developing country was found to be necessary and useful to fill the gap and complement domestic savings, provided it remained within certain safety limits. In this regard the participants were most forthcoming in their aggressive prescriptions, not only to face the indebtedness crisis but also to take precautions to avoid falling in traps that could come with it.

The Arab Thought Forum should be commended for organising an excellent seminar that produced practical solutions to a danger that is increasingly threatening the very independence and well-being of most non-oil Arab countries.

Pakistan uncertain how to react to Afghan peace drive

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan, uncertain how to interpret the Afghan new year peace offensive, is finding its position more and more awkward at the centre of conflicting interests, diplomats said.

On the one side, the Soviets and their Kabul allies have sent out a string of increasingly attractive signals, convincing many observers that a negotiated peace is at least possible.

The advantages of a settlement are underlined daily by growing friction on the border, internal sabotage in Pakistan's volatile frontier region, and ethnic violence in the south.

On the other side looms the

prospect that an end to the eight-year conflict would harden American hearts towards Pakistan, threatening the vital flow of U.S. aid.

Most important are the three million exiles, refugees who fled over the border after often great hardships, and the distrustful guerrillas, hardened by years of struggle.

When peace talks reopen in Geneva in a few weeks' time, the Pakistani delegation could find itself in effect negotiating on behalf of the rebels, with no mandate and limited influence over them, diplomats say.

Islamabad's first problem is what to make of the initiative, launched by Communist Party chief Najibullah with all the drive of his mentor, Soviet leader

Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Pakistani foreign ministry says it will put it to the test in Geneva. "We regard it as an indication of a new trend — whether it is for propaganda purposes or for real will have to be tested by the negotiations," a spokesman said.

Pakistan officials said the key indicator will be the time-frame for withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Kabul has said it would be over four years, after the flow of outside supplies to the rebels is halted, while Pakistan insists that three to four months is enough.

"If they come up next time with a time-frame of three years, or even two years, they are not serious," one official said. "If they start talking in months, they are."

The analysts and diplomatic Afghan-watchers in Islamabad say the time-frame question masks the real issue at stake — what kind of government the Soviet forces, who intervened in 1979, leave behind them.

The underlying assumption on both sides is that a long period for withdrawal would allow the Kremlin to subdue the Western-backed rebels, while a short time-frame would oblige it to seek compromise with them.

This latter option would inevitably involve negotiating the shape of an administration acceptable to both sides, which is beyond the scope of the Geneva talks.

Pakistan insists it can only discuss international aspects of the

conflict. But Najibullah's peace offers and pledges to give opposition figures a role in a broad-based coalition government have strengthened his hand before the next round of talks.

The U.N.-sponsored negotiations are due to resume on February 11, but informed sources say they are likely to be postponed to give the sides more time to prepare.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is hastily consulting its allies. In the past few days Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has been to China, Iran and Saudi Arabia, all strong backers of the Muslim guerrillas. Further discussions are expected at the Islamic summit in Kuwait this month.

The most important ally of all is the United States and Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost is due in Islamabad on Sunday for a three-day visit.

Pakistan is one of the main recipients of U.S. aid. A five-year package of \$3.2 billion expires this year and a new deal of \$4.02 billion has been agreed for the next six years.

Left-wing critics of Gen. Zia say he will never agree to an Afghan peace settlement as it would jeopardise the \$1.74 billion of military loans included in the new package.

"The problem is that these people (the government) are completely in the hands of the Americans," veteran left-wing politician Khan Wali Khan told Reuters. "Without this money, what will the government do?"

W. German economic achievements spell re-election for Kohl

By Anthony Williams
Reuters

BONN — West Germans, who have enjoyed four years of economic recovery under Chancellor Helmut Kohl, are expected to signal satisfaction with his strategy by returning him to office in the general election on January 25.

Elections here traditionally turn on economic policy and voters are showing clear support for Kohl's promises of four more years of the same conservative measures.

West Germany, which boasts one of the world's strongest currencies, this week accepted a further revaluation of the mark in a realignment of European currencies despite the risk of antagonising exporters and farmers.

Predicting the change would not hurt the economy, Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said: "The strong mark is an international vote of confidence in Germany's economic policies."

Stoltenberg added he was sure West Germans would understand that Bonn had to put other considerations ahead of its concern to woo voters. Political analysts say most ordinary voters will look on the mark's increased strength as another sign of rising prosperity.

Kohl's government — virtually assured of re-election, according to opinion polls — plans to centre its future economic policies on a major reform of the fiscal system, including large-scale tax cuts which Stoltenberg hopes to pay for partially by slashing government subsidies.

West German successes in squeezing inflation out of the economy have resulted in rising affluence for Western Europe's industrial power-house.

Recent figures show West German purchasing power rose six per cent last year, the strongest increase since the 1960s, according to the federal statistics office.

Dresdner Bank commented in a report that: "The general prosperity of the population has increased markedly."

With more money in their pockets, West Germans went on a spending spree last year, buying a record number of new cars.

Inflation has been falling worldwide, not least because of slumping crude oil costs. But West Germany has been reporting negative inflation rates since April 1986, the first time in over 30 years that prices have actually fallen.

At the same time, the country will report a record surplus on foreign trade for 1986.

However, unemployment is a black cloud over Kohl's economic performance. The jobless rate stubbornly refuses to dip below two million, roughly 8.5 per cent, and the Social Democratic (SPD) opposition accuses the government of accepting "mass unemployment."

The SPD charges Kohl and government officials have overstated the prospects for future economic growth to win votes.

Its chancellor candidate, Johannes Rau, has pledged to halve the number of unemployed if elected. He said this could be achieved through an "active labour policy" aimed at creating 400,000 new jobs by 1989, reducing working hours and making additional public spending.

But the jobless number did fall modestly last year, the first decline since 1979. Officials report a strong rise in new jobs and add the jobless rolls have been swollen by many West Germans, especially women, returning to the labour market.

Another major bank, Commerzbank, said in a recent commentary that, among all industrial nations, West Germany was "cutting the best figure."

It attributed this partly to the resurgence of innovation in industry and in the services sectors but also to "sound fiscal and monetary policies."

Recent polls suggest a clear endorsement of these policies.

Finance Minister Stoltenberg is regularly voted the second most popular politician in the country, after Social Democratic ex-chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

This despite, or maybe because of, his insistence on "frugal budgetary spending."

Germans still haunted by the spectre of the Weimar inflation of the 1920s are receptive to economic platforms emphasising the importance of "sound money."

The West German consumer, for example, is generally far more resistant to credit-card buying than European neighbours.

Stoltenberg's central aim in the government's first legislative period was to reduce federal deficits inherited from the previous SPD government which ruled in coalition with the Liberal Free Democrat (FDP) party.

New net government borrowing, roughly the equivalent of the budget deficit, is targeted at 22.3 billion marks (\$11.2 billion) for this year.

This compares with over 37 billion marks (\$18.5 billion) in 1982, when the FDP abandoned the SPD for Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian partner, the Christian Social Union.

The West German economy was in a recession at the time, but has since enjoyed four years of expansion. A further 12 months of economic growth are predicted.

There are, however, signs a slowdown in growth is on its way. Commerzbank wrote: "In 1983, there is a danger that the economy will run out of steam as the wave of investment ebbs."

And the government failed to achieve its three per cent target for growth in 1986. Provisional official figures show the economy expanded by only 2.5 per cent.

Officials reckon growth will continue at roughly the same rate this year, although one gloomy forecast, from the Diw institute in West Berlin, predicts only 1.5 per cent.

Central America, at crossroads, gets peace push

By Phil Davison
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — The United Nations, Latin America and Europe are throwing their weight behind a new peace push for Central America amid concern that 1987 could see all-out war in the region.

The secretaries general of the United Nations and Organisation of American States (OAS) plan to join foreign ministers of eight Latin American nations in a regional tour starting this weekend aimed at forging a peace formula.

The January 17-20 mission was endorsed by the 31-member OAS last week despite reservations by the United States, the organisation's most influential member.

Washington is concerned the mission might lead to a settlement which does not meet U.S. objectives in leftist Nicaragua.

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams and U.S. Central America special envoy Philip Habib met Costa Rican Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto in Miami last week to discuss the issue.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said that Washington supported any initiative that led to "a genuine democratic" outcome in Nicaragua.

She said this could be achieved if the ruling Sandinistas began direct talks with the U.S.-backed contra rebels, which Managua has refused to do.

Most analysts and diplomats in the region expect Reagan to continue at least tightening the screws on Nicaragua during the remaining two years of his term.

Diplomats from the region and outside said a hard-line stance by Reagan could fuel militarisation and war psychosis, hampering regional efforts to develop a peace formula.

One European diplomat said

various contacts, such as a visit to Latin America by British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe this month, stemmed from concern in Europe over the effect of the Iran arms sales scandal on U.S. policy.

Political analysts believe the unauthorised diversion to the contras of proceeds from the arms sales could mean the end of the U.S. aid to the rebels.

"Reagan now has two options, to hang tough and try even harder to remove the Sandinistas, or to soften up and opt for more economic pressure and diplomacy to remove the Nicaraguan thorn," said the diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

"It is concern that he may prefer the rambo option that makes urgent diplomacy necessary, by Contadora, the U.N., the OAS, Europe or whoever else cares about preventing a regional war," he added.

The so-called Rio Group, which is undertaking the mission, has received pledges of support from European nations including Britain, West Germany and Spain, which diplomats in the region said would carry out their own quiet diplomacy.

The Latin American nations taking part in the mission are the founding members of the Contadora group — Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia — formed nearly four years ago to try to negotiate peace in Central America, and those which later formed a support group, Peru, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

One Latin American diplomat said the peace effort was focusing on three areas: Nicaragua's conflict with the contras, its border tensions with U.S. allies Honduras and Costa Rica, and the seven-year-old war in El Salvador between leftist guerrillas and the U.S.-backed government.

The Rio Group mission in-



"The polyps are benign, but you've got cancer in Nicaragua."

cludes all eight foreign ministers from the Contadora nations and the support group, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, himself a Peruvian, and OAS Secretary-General Joao Clemente Baena Soares, from Brazil.

One problem the Rio Group faces is Nicaragua's complaint to the World Court in The Hague over the presence of contras in neighbouring Honduras and Costa Rica.

Both countries deny hosting contras and have said they will not cooperate with Contadora moves until Nicaragua drops the case.

Several times over the last few years, would-be peacemakers and Central American leaders have raised the possibility of stationing

an international peace-keeping force or observers along Nicaragua's borders.

Perez de Cuellar's presence in the Rio Group highlights the possibility that such a plan, perhaps using U.N. forces, could be seriously considered.

The worst problem facing the new peace delegation is likely to be the war in and around Nicaragua itself.

The peace moves have been given added urgency by the fact that new U.S. aid to the contras, totalling \$100 million, has begun reaching the front lines.

Military experts say they expect that when enough men, guns and bullets are in place, probably by spring, the contras will launch what could be their biggest operation yet.

New chief Zhao — the man who has made reforms work

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuters

PEKING — Premier Zhao Ziyang, the new acting chief of China's ruling Communist Party, is credited with having made the economic reform plans of top leader Deng Xiaoping work over the past six years.

Zhao, 67, was hand-picked by Deng for the premiership in 1980 and chosen by him again on Friday to take over as party chief from Deng's other chief protégé Hu Yaobang, who was removed from his post after being accused of committing political errors.

Hu and Zhao had been seen as equals under the leadership of Deng, but Hu's removal in the wake of nation-wide demonstrations by students demanding more Western-style democracy has left Zhao as Deng's undisputed heir apparent.

Hu was a controversial figure in many ways — flamboyant in character, unpopular with the conservative hard-line wing of the party and outspoken on sensitive subjects.

Zhao is very different — a man who has impressed people with his quiet ability, his sophisticated handling of the economy and his performance on numerous foreign

visits. His confident, genial manner and the panache of his smart Western suits have helped transform the popular media image of an inscrutable and forbidding China.

"He has the ability to be charming without giving up any of his positions," commented one U.S. official involved in negotiations with Peking over American arms sales to Taiwan.

Like so many others, Zhao was purged during chairman Mao's cultural revolution of the 1960s, but he made a name for himself in the late 1970s as party chief of the central province of Sichuan, pioneering liberal agriculture policies which were later implemented throughout the country following the rise to power of Zhao's mentor, Deng.

Zhao was born into a landlord family in central Henan province in 1919 (the exact date of birth is not known) and he joined the Communist Party at the age of 20.

After the Communist victory in 1949, Zhao rose to senior posts in the provincial party leadership, and just before he was purged in the cultural revolution, he was quoted as declaring:

"If we engage in production with capitalistic methods, we shall



Zhao Ziyang eventually embark on the wrong path."

Ironically, he was later to become the prime mover in Deng's efforts to make use of selected capitalist methods to help revitalise China's economy in the early 1980s.

After years in obscurity, Zhao reappeared in the early 1970s, and at Deng's suggestion was appointed as party chief in Sichuan province in 1975.

At the heart of Zhao's economic reforms was the then-controversial principle that incentives were needed to boost production, and the national press quoted a popular saying reminiscent of political jingles used by politicians in the West:

"If you want grain (Liang), ask Zhao Ziyang."

He joined the ruling politburo

in 1979 and took over as premier the following year, replacing chairman Mao's chosen successor Hua Guofeng.

By late 1984, the ageing Deng was saying he had left Zhao and Hu in charge of day-to-day affairs.

Zhao has stressed repeatedly that China's present "open door" policy will not be changed, and is a strong supporter of Deng Xiaoping's reformist policies.

His speeches on the economy in recent years have been marked by their absence of political rhetoric and the increasing use of Western-style economic terminology.

He has travelled widely abroad in the past few years and has addressed the United Nations General Assembly for the first time in October 1985.

He has also travelled extensively in China, being frequently shown on the television chatting easily with peasants in his shirt-sleeves.

Western diplomats give him full marks in his handling of foreign affairs and the economy — his two primary responsibilities.

He has also benefitted during the recent crisis due to the fact that he has always refrained from pushing himself to the front in party matters.

مكتبة ابن رشد

West German woman MP's nude-cartoon suit rejected

By Brigit Loff

A Berlin judge has rejected on a technicality an 80,000-mark damages claim against the Swiss-based Penthouse publishing company by Petra Kelly, a member of the Bonn Bundestag and one of Germany's most prominent Greens.

She had been featured in caricature, naked with her back and turned round head facing the viewer. Her right arm rested, wild-west fashion, on the butt of a Colt .45 sitting in a holster hanging from a black leather belt. She wore black stiletto-heeled boots. The drawing appeared in the "VIP Calendar" in March last year.

The issue before the court was: was this a matter of unlawful invasion of privacy or of artistic freedom?

Frau Kelly's counsel, Anne Klein, said it was not a case of seeing a good opportunity of collecting 80,000 marks. The money would be given to a charity for children with cancer.

She said Frau Kelly was not a "terrible prude." Nevertheless, she objected to the naked female

form being used for promotion purposes.

Frau Klein said it was "typical" that the calendar featured the portraits of 12 politicians, two of whom were women and that one of them was naked.

It was the purpose of a caricature to reveal the personal characteristics of a person and make them appear ridiculous through overdrawn.

The caricature was suggesting that Frau Kelly had used sex as a tool in politics. That was an untrue suggestion. She stood for non-violence and disarmament.

Penthouse's lawyer, Vera Movsessian, said the caricature had been drawn by a well-known artist, 34-year-old Ori Hofmekler. Its purpose had simply been to express the Greens' political ideas of "back to nature" and "off with the encumbrances of civilisation."

The Colt revolver was an attempt to capture the fighting character of the Greens. It had nothing to do with the problem of sex and power. On the contrary, it had everything to do with artistic licence.

Frau Kelly wanted nothing



Petra Kelly is no prude, says her lawyer

other than a set of rules to lay down what a cartoon should portray and to limit artistic licence. Frau Movsessian said there were only two women featured in the calendar for the simple reason that there were so few women in leading positions in politics. There weren't many as interesting as Frau Kelly and "she should feel honoured to be drawn by such a famed cartoonist."

Others featured in the calendar, which was shown in court, included British Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher with a football, short trousers and cellulitis on the thigh; President Reagan as the main in the whisky advertisement ("Ronnie Walker"); Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner wrapped in a bath towel and using a tube of lipstick; and Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss with a naked stomach and a hand covering his private parts.

The court was told that 3,000 copies of the calendar had been produced and all members of Parliament in Bonn had received one as a present.

The judge, Gerhard Siebert, said there were legal precedents for saying that people in public life had to be prepared to expect a certain amount of fun to be poked at them. There had to be plenty of scope for freedom of opinion and artistic licence.

He rejected the plaintiff's claim however, not on these grounds, but because the suit had been addressed to the wrong people, an editor and a company within the Penthouse group which had nothing to do with the production of the calendar - Frankfurter Rundschau.

British royalty aims at tourist market

By Stephen Lynas

LONDON — Princess Anne's husband Captain Mark Phillips is to give \$2,000-a-day shooting lessons to American tourists.

He is being used as the star attraction in a glossy new holiday scheme that cashes in on the American love for British status symbols and tradition.

The scheme, "A sporting week with the English gentry," promises a "totally exclusive experience" to those prepared to spend \$10,000 in only six days.

The holidays are to be run from Great Rissington Manor, a privately owned Cotswolds. A glossy green and gold brochure emphasises that it is close to Anne and Mark's home, Gatcombe Park.

On offer is a crash course in uppercrust British life, including hunting, racing and lessons on how to shoot everything from clay pigeons to real birds, including grouse and pheasant as well as hare.

The organisers believe that using Captain Phillips' name is such a publicity coup that they are offering refunds of \$2,000 if he does not attend the one-day clay pigeon shooting class.

Guests will be picked up from Heathrow Airport by chauffeur Range Rover and driven to a five-star hotel in the heart of the Cotswolds. On the first night they will sit down to a typical country dinner at Great Rissington, home of the Godman family which is running the scheme.

Day two, the only day involving Captain Phillips, will be spent at the Lady's Wood shooting school, where he will join full-time expert instructors to give advice on clay pigeon shooting and perhaps demonstrate his own skills.

But even tourists who have no interest in shooting, and who join the holiday for a mere \$5,000 on the basis that they will find other things to do, are to get \$1,000 reduction if they don't meet Captain Phillips.

For the sporting types, though, there follow two more days of shooting — pheasant, grouse, or hare, depending on the season. A "lawn meet" with either the Duke of Beaufort's hunt or the Heythrop Foxhounds promises

the "twilight vision of horses and riders, faces flushed red, spattered with mud, trotting wearily home down some country lane, a contented smile on their faces."

The sixth day will be spent at a National Hunt race meeting. Hugh Godman, a farmer whose parents live at Great Rissington Manor, has hired land out to shooting parties, including Americans, in the past.

He decided to launch his own holiday shoots through specialists Sporting International, of Houston, Texas.

Godman said, "If it works it will start in the middle of the year, but I have no comment to make about Captain Mark Phillips. These holidays will not be advertised in this country." — Observer.

'Vidasil' — the invention of the century?

By Dragan Milenkovic

IT was a strange duel, but nonetheless a typical one for modern times. The French inventor "Brenner" which, it was claimed, could burn any material and the Yugoslav inventor "Vidasil" were pitting their strength against one another at the World Innovations Exhibition — the Eureka Salon. The duel was the idea of the French inventor who convinced the jury that a direct testing of strength between the two strongest candidates for the Grand Prix would make a decision easier. He was right. The machine which can develop heat of over 6,000 degrees centigrade tried long and desperately to burn the eight centimetre thick piece of Vidasil but, finally, the machine itself disintegrated through its own heat and force.

This is how "Vidasil," the invention of the Yugoslav scientist Vida Popovic won the Grand Prix despite competition from 600

inventions from 20 countries and gave rise to great interest among world firms.

Vida Popovic is one of those rare factory directors who are also scientists. She returned to Yugoslavia with several offers of factories for this thermosetting material, which, it was said in Brussels, was unique in technical processes demanding great heat resistance. The first concrete result of "Vidasil" is the success of the protocol signed in Brussels with the Chinese Corporation for Atomic Energy which wishes to build a "Vidasil" factory for its own requirements.

"Vidasil" is an extremely light material weighing between 220 and 270 kilograms per cubic metre. Its working resistance to heat is 1100 degrees centigrade. It can stand up to 3,000 volts and absorbs vibrations exceptionally well. Its basic component is hydrosilicate which is not affected by either acids or gases. The method of production of "Vidasil" is, for the present, the secret of Vida Popovic, who, it is

interesting to note, is the first woman ever to have received the Grand Prix at the Eureka Salon.

Vida Popovic's reception upon her return from Brussels was that usually reserved for film stars or sports aces. She was met by an army of journalists, photographers and television crews. The people who awaited her with greatest pleasure were, however, the inhabitants of the small village Leusici in central Serbia. It is there that Vida Popovic is director of the Kristal factory which already produces "Vidasil." Scores of workers and engineers, mainly young people employed in the factory, gave Vida Popovic an enthusiastic reception, saying that she had "been waging their common struggle" in Brussels.

The "Kristal" factory is also the work of the inventor of "Vidasil." It was Vida Popovic, an engineer of technology, who sought the resources for its construction from the Department for the Development of Science of the

Republic of Serbia, who created the programme and technology and determined the construction site. She decided on Leusici because of its large quartz deposits, necessary for the production of "Vidasil" and also on account of the understanding shown by the municipality of Gornji Milanovac, to which the village belongs. She says that even she herself was surprised at the trust and the speed with which her still untested project was accepted.

The world award in Brussels is the best proof of the project's justification, and it is now necessary to exert all efforts to promote the production of this material.

At the moment "Kristal" produces five thousand cubic metres of "Vidasil" a year. Yugoslav requirements are assessed at some 30 thousand cubic metres. Many Yugoslav firms are interested in the construction of "Vidasil" factories, including "Avotekna" or Ljubljana, the owner of the patent and co-financier of the Kristal factory. Two "Vidasil" factories are expected to be constructed in 1987. In Yugoslavia, which will cover Yugoslav requirements and also produce for exports. The new "Vidasil" factories will be built by Yugoslav enterprises and will contain domestic technology. The new insulation material will improve working conditions and decrease costs in all branches of industry in which Vida Popovic's invention is used — Tanjug features.



LOOKING FORWARD to a rigorous winter, Vermont store owner Dan Fraser stockpiles more than a hundred cords of firewood. In New England, as in the Rockies, Ozarks, and other heavily wooded regions, wood is a renewable and plentiful heat source. But it comes

with a price that goes beyond the per-cord cost. Wood smoke contains carbon monoxide, other noxious gases, and minuscule particles that rival cigarette smoke for virulence.

Aesthetically cozy wood fires pose threats to health

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

DENVER — On a clear winter day in this mile-high city, you can see beyond the downtown skyscrapers to the low mountains of the Front Range, beyond them to the white caps of the 14,000-foot peaks of the Rocky Mountains, etched against the infinite azure of the western sky.

But chances are good that you won't even be able to see the foothills. They'll be lost behind the capital city's infamous "brown cloud," the smog layer that hovers 200 to 300 feet off the ground when weather conditions are right.

Causes lung diseases

It isn't just ugly, it's dangerous. Colorado is the nation's fourth-ranked state in deaths associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, according to figures compiled by the federal government. Such diseases include emphysema, chronic asthma, and chronic bronchitis.

Enter a new villain, unrecognised until the past few years: wood-burning stoves and fireplaces.

Cars remain the chief contributor to polluted air in Denver and most other cities. But it has been determined that as much as 18 per cent of the brown cloud over the six-county Denver metropolitan area of 1.5 million

people is caused by the residue from fires in an estimated 72,000 stoves and fireplace inserts and in 265,000 fireplaces.

The percentage of pollution from wood smoke is far greater in the narrow valleys of ski-resort towns in Colorado's high Rockies — towns such as Aspen, Telluride, Crested Butte, and Vail — and in New England winter resorts.

In Aspen, a town of 3,800 in a ski area that may grow to 30,000 at the height of the season, the 600-foot-thick cloud that engulfs the valley is blue, not brown, because it is 45 per cent wood smoke, says Lee Cassin, environmental health officer for both Aspen and Pitkin County.

Missoula, Montana, with a population of 65,000, is another city with a problem. When warm air traps pollution-filled cold air in the 3,100-foot-high valley where

Missoula is located, "it's a box with a lid on it," says Jim Carlson, senior scientist with the city-county health department.

"It's against human nature for people to think they contribute individually to a problem," says Steve Walker of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Environmental Health Department's Air Pollution Control Division. A laboratory study has found that the sources of that state capital's brown cloud are divided equally between motor vehicles and wood smoke.

Fumigating fog

"The thing I really worry

about," Walker says, "is that when you go through neighbourhoods at night, they're being fumigated with wood smoke. It reminds you of the fog in 'The 10 Commandments.'"

The health dangers from that smoke are now well-known. Not only does it contain carbon monoxide and other noxious gases, it also contains minuscule particles, some of them as carcinogenic as cigarette smoke, that find their way into lungs. The problem is felt most acutely in population centres where altitude is high and temperatures are low. Ironically, use of wood stoves took off during the oil crisis of the 1970s, when wood was touted as an environmentally sound, economical, renewable source of heat.

Although some authorities say the craze probably crested in the late '70s, there are still an estimated 12 million wood stoves in the United States, and 800,000 new ones are sold every year.

Health dangers and soaring wood costs notwithstanding, people continue to enjoy their wood fires. Robert Aukerman, a professor at Colorado State University, has conducted many studies on wood uses. Sixty per cent of Coloradans burn wood for recreation, not heat alone, he says.

Moreover, he calculates that wood-burners are, in the long run, stripping the state of fuel faster than it can be replenished. "With the amount of wood removed each year in Colorado alone," he says,

"we could build a wall two feet wide and four feet tall from San Francisco to New York — and back again."

Governments at all levels are taking action against the recently recognised dangers of wood-caused pollution.

Resorts adopt restrictions

Aspen, Telluride, and other resort communities have adopted tough restrictions on the number of stoves and fireplaces. Missoula has mandatory no-burn days. Denver followed suit this fall, becoming the country's largest city to adopt a mandatory no-burn policy.

Only two states, Oregon and Colorado, have passed laws requiring strict pollution-control standards for new wood stoves. Oregon's law took effect July 1; Colorado's will become effective next Jan. 1.

After six months of negotiations by representatives of government, industry, and environmental groups, on Jan. 1 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will announce nationwide certification regulations for wood stoves and fireplace inserts.

The new, two-phase rules, to begin on July 1, 1988, will reduce wood-fire particulate emissions more than 70 per cent in the fifth year and result in net savings to the wood-burning public of \$29 million a year, EPA officials predict.

From colliding spirals to infrared galaxies to quasars

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

PASADENA, California — Scientists say they have identified a key stage in the birth of quasars, the universe's brightest objects: collisions of spiral-shaped galaxies that form star systems emitting little visible light.

"We think we're seeing quasars in the early stages of formation," David Sanders, an astrophysicist at the California Institute of Technology, said on Jan. 8.

The star systems, which are known as infrared galaxies, "appear to have all the characteristics of quasars, except they're not yet shining brightly in visible light wavelengths," Sanders said.

They emit 10 times more heat than visible light, he said. Caltech studies of 10 of the systems showed they apparently were formed by the gravity-caused collision of spiral

galaxies, Sanders said during the American Astronomical Society's annual meeting.

The theory that galactic collisions form quasars is well-accepted, but Caltech's research is significant because it identifies the infrared galaxies as an intermediate step in quasar formation, said society spokesman Steve Maran, a senior scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

About 3,600 quasars have been seen since the class of superbright objects was first identified in 1963. With cores the size of earth's solar system, the mysterious bodies emit ultraviolet and visible light that outshines galaxies of billions of suns. The most powerful quasars are the brightest objects in the universe.

Photographs made with the 200-inch and 60-inch telescopes at Caltech's Palomar Observatory, near San Diego, show that the infrared galaxies

look like the result of collisions between galaxies with the spiral arms.

The infrared galaxies have "a distorted central disk that is essentially the merged product of two individual galaxies and long tidal tails, which are stars that are stripped off" as two galaxies bash into each other, Sanders said.

A second series of studies involved radio telescopes at California's Owens Valley, Arizona's Kitt Peak and Amherst, Massachusetts.

Radio images showed extremely high concentrations of gas in the centre of the infrared galaxies, indicating that galactic collisions help concentrate the gas needed to fuel quasars, which are believed to have black holes at their central power generator.

Black holes are objects so dense that their tremendous gravity sucks in even light. But scientists theorise that when gas and dust fall into black holes within

quasars, tremendous amounts of energy are spewed outward to produce intense quasar light.

The third set of studies "analysed the small amount of (visible) light that actually leaks out" from infrared galaxies, Sanders said. "We found light is more characteristic of what you see coming from a quasar" than from other galactic formations.

Last September, Caltech astronomers Charles Beichman and Tom Soifer announced the discovery of a more advanced stage in quasar formation: An infrared galaxy with an internal power source that was blowing holes in the surrounding shroud of gas and dust.

Infrared galaxies produce more heat than visible light because the quasars believed to be forming within them emit ultraviolet and visible light that heat surrounding dust and gas. They apparently become mature quasars when the dust and gas is blown away.

The 25 most populous countries in 1985, 2000 and 2025, ranked by size, medium variant (Population in thousands)

1985		2000		2025	
Country	Population	Country	Population	Country	Population
1. China	1,059,821	1. China	1,255,895	1. China	1,478,169
2. India	758,927	2. India	994,072	2. India	1,228,829
3. USSR	276,618	3. USSR	314,738	3. USSR	368,234
4. USA	239,020	4. USA	268,239	4. Nigeria	338,105
5. Indonesia	166,440	5. Indonesia	211,367	5. USA	311,936
6. Brazil	135,564	6. Brazil	179,487	6. Indonesia	272,744
7. Japan	120,742	7. Nigeria	161,930	7. Brazil	245,809
8. Bangladesh	101,147	8. Bangladesh	145,800	8. Pakistan	219,383
9. Pakistan	100,380	9. Pakistan	140,961	9. Pakistan	209,976
10. Nigeria	95,198	10. Japan	125,725	10. Mexico	154,085
11. Mexico	78,966	11. Mexico	108,180	11. Japan	135,082
12. Germany, Fed. Rep. of	60,877	12. Viet Nam	79,870	12. Ethiopia	129,295
13. Viet Nam	59,713	13. Philippines	74,057	13. Viet Nam	108,482
14. Italy	57,300	14. Ethiopia	66,509	14. Philippines	102,787
15. United Kingdom	56,125	15. Thailand	65,503	15. Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	97,011
16. France	54,821	16. Turkey	65,351	16. Turkey	90,389
17. Philippines	54,498	17. Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	65,161	17. Egypt	90,097
18. Thailand	51,411	18. Egypt	63,941	18. Zaïre	85,929
19. Turkey	49,298	19. Germany, Fed. Rep. of	59,642	19. Thailand	83,306
20. Egypt	46,909	20. Italy	57,162	20. United Rep. of Tanzania	82,559
21. Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	44,832	21. France	56,354	21. Kenya	78,361
22. Ethiopia	43,587	22. United Kingdom	50,981	22. South Africa	65,960
23. Rep. of Korea	41,258	23. Rep. of Korea	48,439	23. Burma	61,572
24. Spain	38,542	24. Burma	47,581	24. Rep. of Korea	61,572
25. Poland	37,187	25. Zaïre		25. France	68,431

Population Division—World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1984

Global estimates reveal growth rate decline

The following article is reprinted from Population, the U.N. Fund for Population Activities' Newsletter.

BY THE year 2000, the total world population could well reach more than six billion, and by 2025, it could total more than eight billion. These and other population figures are revealed in a forthcoming United Nations publication entitled *World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1984*, issued by the Population Division, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

While the rate of population

growth has entered a phase of gradual decline, the report notes, the actual number of persons added to the world's population each year is increasing. This means that at present the equivalent of the current population of Mexico or the whole of Northern Europe is being added to the world total each year.

Among the major areas of the world, Africa is experiencing the highest rate of growth: 3.0 per cent. The Population Division publication shows that this rate is expected to increase further and remain above 3 per cent until the end of the century, owing to a very slow decline in high fertility rates

and continuous improvement in mortality rates.

The report notes that Latin America has the next highest growth rate, 2.2 per cent which is expected to drop after 1995. Asia is growing as fast as the world average, 1.7 per cent, but the rate of growth 0.3 per cent; its total population may begin to decline at the beginning of the next century.

Requests for *World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1984* should be addressed to: Director, Population Division, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A. Sales No. 86.XIII.3. Price \$47.00.

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Lendl, Becker power their way forward in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Top seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and his great rival Boris Becker of West Germany on Saturday powered their way into the last 16 of the \$1.65 million Australian Open tennis championships at Kooyong.

Lendl scored a 6-4, 6-2, 6-7, 6-2 third round triumph over American Matt Anger to clinch a meeting with NCAA champion Dan Goltz of the United States.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Becker, the second seed, downed his friend and doubles partner Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Rookie pro Goltz upset 16th seeded Ramesh Krishnan of India 3-6, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 in impressive style.

Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, the sixth seed, also advanced Saturday, defeating South African Gary Muller 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

World number one Lendl, bidding to win a Grand Slam event on grass for the first time, was highly critical of the surface on the outside court where he faced Anger.

"It was like a parking lot," said the 26-year-old U.S. Open champion.

Becker's match against Zivojinovic was a real crowd pleaser, with the two friends clearly enjoying their confrontation.

Earlier Saturday, defending

champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden blasted his way past Australian John Frawley. Edberg, the fourth seed, took just 98 minutes to down unseeded Frawley 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 in their third-round encounter.

American Tim Wilkison, the 14th seed, also scored a quick third-round victory, while Australian Liz Smylie upset ninth-seeded Robin White of the United States 6-1, 6-2, to move into the fourth round of the women's singles.

Wilkison defeated 1976 Australian Open winner Mark Edmondson of Australia 6-2, 6-1, 7-6, taking out the final-set tiebreaker 7-4.

Seeded women to advance Saturday included no. 5 Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany and no. 8 Lori McNeil of the United States.

"I'm playing ok," Edberg said after his speedy win, during which he did not once drop service.

"My form is nothing special, but I'm playing well on the big points, and that's what matters. I saved a lot of break points, and that's a good sign."

"I started slowly when I won

last year (in December 1985), so I'm hopeful things will work out this time."

The Australian Open was not held in 1986 as the tournament was moved from December to January.

Edberg suffered a confidence-sapping loss to Australian Pat Cash in the Davis Cup final at Kooyong last month, but said he had put that defeat out of his mind.

"I'd like revenge, but this is a new year and I'm keen to play," the 21-year-old right-hander said.

Edberg tried to play down the pressure of being the defending champion.

"No one expected me to win last year, but this year it feels very different," he said.

The veteran Smylie was a surprisingly easy winner over White, whose aggressive game makes her dangerous on grass.

"I served really well today, and when I serve well everything else seems to fall into place," Smylie said.

McNeil downed fellow American Marianne Werdel 6-2, 7-5, while the tall Kohde-Kilsch breezed past veteran Tina Mochizuki of the United States 6-2, 6-2.

Australian teen-ager Janine Thompson earned a meeting with defending champion Martina Navratilova by beating American Beverly Bowes 6-3, 7-5.

Espinoza wins WBA junior featherweight title

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — American Louie Espinoza stopped Tommy Valoy of the Dominican Republic at one minute, 52 seconds of the fourth round Saturday night to win the World Boxing Association's vacant junior featherweight title.

Espinoza knocked down Valoy with a straight right hand to the head half-way through the fourth round of the scheduled 15-round fight.

Espinoza followed up the knockdown with a flurry of punches, pining Valoy against the ropes. As Valoy staggered from the onslaught, referee Enzo Montero of Venezuela stepped in and stopped the fight.

"The eyes were rolling on him," Montero said. "He was hurt enough. He was in bad condition. Espinoza was too superior, too strong."

Neither Valoy nor his handlers complained when the fight was stopped. They left quickly and did not comment. Valoy is now 21-2.

Espinoza, 21-1 with 17 knockouts, came out strong in the first round, using mostly a left jab

to send Valoy back pedalling. He continued to be the aggressor in the second round, as well.

Valoy came back in the third round with a strong left jab and stunned Espinoza with a right to the head. But Espinoza shook it off toward the end of the round and returned to using his left jab effectively.

"I was ready for anything. We were prepared," said Espinoza, adding that he had set up Valoy with a jab before landing the right that floored the Dominican.

Though his trainer had predicted Espinoza would knock out his opponent sometime between the fourth and seventh rounds, Espinoza said he was surprised when the fight was stopped.

"I was just going to keep going," he said. "I knew I had him."

The WBA has ordered Espinoza to defend his title within 120 days against former champion Victor Calles, who was stripped of the crown by the WBA for twice backing out of fights with Espinoza last year.

NBA roundup

Boston Celtics edge Cavaliers in OT

NEW YORK (AP) — Having played with and against Michael Jordan, Cleveland rookie Brad Daugherty thought he'd already seen the best basketball of his life. Mr. Daugherty, meet Larry Bird.

"Now I've played against (Michael) Jordan and all the others, but Bird is the best of all I've played against in my life. He works hard. He has my vote for MVP," said the first-year center.

Bird, the NBA's most valuable player in each of the last three seasons, scored 35 points Friday night to go along with 38 from teammate Kevin McHale, and it was barely enough to give the Celtics a 133-128 overtime victory over the rookie-laden Cavaliers.

While Daugherty was busy praising Boston, the Celtics were offering a self-critique far less flattering.

"We had the attitude it was Cleveland and we could turn it on and off," Boston coach K.C. Jones said.

Rockets 112, Pistons 106 While Akeem Olajuwon was in the process of scoring 33 points, Houston was establishing a 97-76 lead. But the Rockets were forced to withstand a 15-point Detroit run to extend their longest winning streak of the season to five games.

The Rockets, attempting to fill the void created by the NBA ban of guards Lewis Lloyd and Mitchell Wiggins for drug use,

acquired veteran forward Cedric Maxwell from the Los Angeles Clippers for a first-round 1987 draft pick and a third-round choice in 1988.

Mavericks 124, Bucks 122 Coach Dick Motta was more than happy to take the win because Dallas had not won in all six previous visits to Milwaukee, dating back to 1980. But he felt sorry for the founder of the game.

"The game we played in the first three quarters, Dr. (James) Naismith would have been disappointed," he explained. "We had the turnovers and were asleep. All of a sudden, we decided to play, and then they (the Bucks) went in the can."

Supersonics 134, Nuggets 100

Denver ran into a roadblock in the form of Alton Lister, who set a Seattle club record with eight blocked shots. Lister, who also scored 19 points, has rejected 14 shots in two games.

"I've been able to time the blocks and I'm attacking," Lister said. "I'm beginning to read defensively."

Warriors 118, Clippers 106 Ten straight points from Eric "Sleepy" Floyd brought Golden State from behind at home.

Los Angeles led 99-98 with five minutes remaining. Floyd then began his streak, and the Warriors surged to a 108-101 lead in the next two minutes.

"We didn't play very well and we still won," Golden State coach George Karl said. "That's supposed to be the mark of a good team."

Monte Carlo Rally sets off

BAD HOMBURG, West Germany (R) — West German Walter Roehrl and co-driver Christian Geistdoerfer sped off in an Audi 200 Quattro Saturday on the first stage of the 55th Monte Carlo Rally in sub-zero, snowy conditions.

The two men were looking for a record-breaking fifth victory in eight years.

Meanwhile world rallying champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland was also beginning his challenge in Sestriere in Italy along with Italian Massimo Biasion and French hopeful Bruno Saby.

In Spain, 15 teams got under way from Barcelona with temperatures sharply up and forecast to reach 11°C (52°F). The road to the French border was reported clear.

Overall 160 teams from 15 countries left from the five starting points — Bad Homburg, Barcelona, Lausanne in Switzerland, Monte Carlo and Sestriere.

Zamalek cuts National's lead

CAIRO (R) — A second-half goal by striker Gamal Abdul Hamid, gave Zamalek of Cairo maximum points from its clash Saturday with Ismaili and cut to two points the lead of champion and city rival National.

Displaying the form that helped his side's African Champions' Cup triumph last month, Hamid netted the only goal four minutes after the break when he headed a Tareq Yehia cross hoisted over from the far left.

Zamalek now goes on to meet National, three-time holders of the African Cup-Winners' Cup, on Friday. If it wins, it would lead the 12-team table for the first time this season.

Clashes between the two sides, which between them provide the national squad with most of its players, have traditionally been something of a local derby, bringing life in soccer-crazy Egypt to a complete halt.

French woman wins super giant slalom

PERONTEN, West Germany (AP) — Catherine Quinette of France captured a women's super giant slalom Saturday to post her first-ever World Cup victory.

Quinette clocked a quick one minute, 17.40 seconds to finish more than half a second ahead of West Germany's Traudi Haecher, who turned in a 1:17.92.

Third place was Haecher's teammate, Marina Kiehl, with a 1:18.37.

The Swiss skiers, after dominating for much of the season, managed only a sixth place finish, by Vreni Schneider. She clocked a 1:18.67.

Everton closes to within one of leader Arsenal

LONDON (R) — Everton confirmed its status as English First Division championship favourites with an impressive 2-0 home win over Sheffield Wednesday Saturday to move within one point of leader Arsenal.

With only nine of the 61 scheduled matches in Britain surviving icy conditions, Liverpool also kept up the pressure by winning 1-0 at Manchester City to trim Arsenal's edge over it to six points.

But Arsenal will have the chance to cancel out the chasing duo's success at home to Coventry Sunday, a match which will almost certainly go ahead despite the weather.

Only one match was played in Scotland, Glasgow Rangers

beating Hamilton 2-0 in front of a crowd of 44,000 to go to the top of the Premier League above Glasgow Celtic.

But what should have been a straightforward victory for Rangers turned sour in the second half when England international defender Graham Roberts — who was considered to be something of a "hard man" during his career with Tottenham — was sent off after receiving two cautions.

Rangers eventually finished the game with nine men after midfielder Ian Durrant was also shown the red card three minutes after Roberts for a wild tackle on Hamilton striker Albert Craig.

Despite a cruel injury list, Everton has gradually emerged as the most likely champion

West German wins 1st ever downhill event

WENGEN, Switzerland (AP) — West Germany's Markus Wasmeier won his first-ever World Cup downhill race Saturday, mastering the 4.1-kilometre (2.5 miles) Laubhorn course in 2 minutes, 29.62 seconds.

The 23-year-old slalom specialist finished 1.09 seconds ahead of Switzerland's Karl Alpiiger on the longest run in World Cup competition.

Franz Heinzer of Switzerland, skiing with an injured left knee, finished third in 2:31.17.

Swiss ace Pirmin Zurbriggen, who leads in both the overall and downhill standings, finished a disappointing ninth in 2:51.55.

Wasmeier averaged about 60 miles an hour in picking up his sixth World Cup victory. He has also won four super-giant slaloms and one combined.

Wasmeier was able to gain time on his competitors in the middle, slower part of the course.

The weather was excellent, with sunny skies and temperatures just below freezing on the course in the Bernese Oberland. The area had been plagued earlier in the week

by fog and high winds, forcing cancellation of Wednesday's practice run.

Danilo Sbardello of Italy finished fourth in 2:31.26, followed closely by Swiss veteran Peter Mueller in 2:31.30.

The top-finisher from the U.S. team was Michael Brown, who took 12th place with a time of 2:31.96 on the course with a drop of 1,028 metres (yards).

Defending World Cup champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg made a poor showing of 2:33.72 to finish outside the top 15. Despite a near-win in the super-giant slalom last week, the Austrian-born skier's season has been hampered by a nagging shoulder injury.

The Wengen competition, which closes with a slalom on Sunday, is the second-to-last World Cup contest before the Alpine Skiing World Championships at Chamonix-Montana, Switzerland.

The men's competition moves next weekend to Kitzbuehl, Austria, for a downhill and a slalom.

British rallyists arrested

LONDON (AP) — Two members of a British auto rally team, which retired from the Paris-Dakar Race with mechanical trouble, are being held in an Algerian jail accused of currency violations, a spokesman for the team said.

Co-driver Barry Lee, four-time world hot rod auto racing champion, and team sponsor Mike Magee, are being held by Algerian authorities near the border with Mali. Their team leader says they are the victims of a misunderstanding.

The two were part of the Toleman team which was forced to retire from the gruelling 12,800-kilometre rally as it crossed the Sahara Desert. A spokesman for the team, Fiona Watkins, said that team leader Ted Toleman was among others held at first but later released.

Watkins said Toleman contacted his London office to say the arrests arose out of a misunderstanding and he hoped the British Consulate in Algiers would resolve the matter soon.

In a statement issued by Ted Toleman from Bamako in Mali, he said: "Algerian rules concerning money carried in and out of the country are very strict. All currency held must be declared on entering the country and this the team did."

"However, after retiring from the rally, in order to set out on their own across the Sahara Desert, those team members who were not making the crossing handed their money to Barry Lee, who held it in the event of a breakdown or other mishap on the journey."

Toleman added that when the team reached the border between Algeria and Mali, Lee and Magee had amounts of currency exceeding the sum declared on entering the country.

All members of the British team were detained, but Toleman and Belgian driver Luc Janssens were allowed to go on after a few days after discussions with the authorities.

Ted Toleman said the team was not in any way trying to skirt around the Algerian currency controls.

"It was a simple misunderstanding of the rules. I regard it as a minor matter which should rapidly be resolved through the British Consulate, who already has made representations on behalf of my two colleagues," he said.

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دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة

Afghan guerrillas agree to form interim government

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (Agencies) — Afghan rebel leaders agreed to set up an "interim" government to take over in Afghanistan after the overthrow of the Soviet-backed administration of Communist leader Najibullah, the main alliance said Saturday.

A declaration by the seven main guerrilla groups, issued at a rally of an estimated 60 to 70,000 Afghan exiles in north-west Pakistan, also rejected Kabul's latest peace initiative as a conspiracy.

Any guerrilla who accepted the ceasefire declared from Jan. 15 would be considered an agent of the Soviet or Kabul secret services who had infiltrated their ranks, the declaration said.

It vowed to continue the eight-year struggle until the expulsion of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops and the overthrow of Mr. Najibullah's government.

The declaration said that by the end of February a commission would present to alliance leaders draft laws and regulations for an interim government to take over after the ousting of the Communists.

The government would supervise general elections for the establishment of an Islamic government and parliament.

A new constitution for an Islamic state would then be drafted.

It was not clear whether the interim administration would start as soon as the guidelines were approved or whether it intended to function as a "government-in-exile" in

Pakistan or elsewhere.

The party leaders, who held three days of talks in Peshawar this week, also agreed to set up Islamic courts to arbitrate internal disputes among the guerrillas.

The declaration was issued at a rally in Peshawar, addressed by all seven party leaders in a rare display of unity.

Speaker after speaker denounced reconciliation with the Communists.

The all-male crowd flocked to the meeting in lorries, cars and minibuses, on carts and on horseback from refugee camps around the city.

The Afghans, some carrying black or green flags, were briefly searched by rebel security guards on their way into the site. Some climbed trees to get a better view of the stage where the seven leaders sat side-by-side on sofas, surrounded by dozens of guards armed with sub-machineguns.

Tens of thousands of hands were raised when Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of one major group, the fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami, asked the crowd to show who wanted to fight on.

Radio Kabul said Friday two thousands anti-Marxist guerrillas have surrendered to the government.

The guerrillas surrendered in

Kushak administrative districts of the western Herat province, close to the Soviet border, it said in a Dari language newscast monitored in Islamabad.

The radio said last week that 1,000 guerrillas belonging to the Jamiat-i-Islami had surrendered to the government.

Jamiat officials in Peshawar confirmed reports that guerrillas had surrendered. But they said "the number of guerrillas who laid down their arms is a lot lower."

The newscast also said two guerrillas groups of 90 and 30, respectively, surrendered in Herat province, close to the Iranian border. The report did not give any other details.

Meanwhile, a study released by NATO in Brussels, Belgium, said the Soviet Union is spending up to \$4 billion a year on military operations in Afghanistan, or 2 per cent of its total defence budget.

The study also said total Soviet military spending, while apparently limited by the Kremlin's stronger emphasis on modernising the economy, is likely to continue growing at about 1 per cent a year through 1990. It is in line with expected NATO defence spending growth.

The report was prepared late last year by economic specialists at North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) headquarters and experts from member nations' capitals. A brief summary was released by the West German delegation.

Manila MILF agree to ceasefire

SULTAN KUDARAT, Philippines (R) — President Corason Aquino campaigned across troubled Mindanao Island Saturday pleading for peace while in a tiny schoolroom guarded by 100 armed men her emissary reached a potential ceasefire with a Muslim rebel group.

Mrs. Aquino was greeted by tens of thousands of cheering people as she flew into three cities asking for approval of her new constitution and for an end to violence.

Her plea took on special meaning in Mindanao where Muslim rebel attacks have resulted in 52 deaths in five days and raised fears of a renewed religious insurgency on an island where 50,000 people were killed in the early 1970s.

"When I hear of Filipinos fighting another Filipino, I feel sorrow. Why should this happen when the same blood runs through our veins?" Mrs. Aquino told 20,000 cheering supporters at a rally in the predominantly Christian city of Surigao.

They had waited for hours to see her, standing ankle deep in mud in sports field drenched by a night of rain. Plywood planks were laid down in the mud for her to walk on.

In the tiny Maguindanao provincial town of Sultan Kudarat, Aquino political adviser Aquilino Pimentel, reached an agreement in principle for a temporary ceasefire with the Muslim rebel group that has claimed to be behind this week's violence.

He and the chief of staff of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) agreed to an immediate ceasefire provided the group's exiled leader, Hashim Salamat, concurred.

MILF Chief of Staff Haji Murad said Salamat would be contacted as soon as possible. He is believed to be in Pakistan. Murad said he would also meet Mrs. Aquino if Salamat approved.

Mr. Pimentel and Murad met in a sparsely furnished room, surrounded by 100 MILF rebels who arrived from their secret hideout in three trucks carrying rifles, locally made grenade-launchers, and Eastern-Bloc rocket launchers.

The ceasefire announcement came just a few hours after four people on a bus outside nearby Cotabato, the scene of some of the worst incidents in the past few days, were killed in an explosion as government troops exchanged fire with unknown gunmen.

Mrs. Aquino, who arrives in Cotabato Sunday on the final day of her weekend swing through Mindanao, was greeted by 30,000 people in Iligan where she rejected suggestions that she favoured either Communism or the United States.

S. African opposition rejects election boycott

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) Saturday rejected a call by anti-apartheid campaigner Archbishop Desmond Tutu to withdraw from South Africa's whites-only general election.

A statement from PFP leader Colin Egan said the party should use its base in parliament to fight the policies of President P.W. Botha's right-wing National Party (NP) government.

"I believe the PFP can show that in spite of the government's propaganda machine there is growing support among the white electorate for a non-racial and

democratic South Africa," he said.

Tutu Friday told a news conference that the election was a charade and non-event as 73 per cent of the population (blacks) would not have a vote.

Mr. Botha has said he will announce that election date when he opens parliament on Jan. 30. No poll will be held for mixed-race coloureds and Indians who have separate chambers of parliament.

The black majority is excluded from the assembly.

The liberal PFP has 27 parliamentary seats compared to the NP's 127.

Unidentified plane involved in U.S. midair collision

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An unidentified plane flew into restricted airspace about a minute before a small plane collided with a commuter airliner, said a federal safety officer investigating the crash that killed 10 people.

John Lauber, a National Transportation Safety board member, would not say Friday whether the wayward plane was the small plane involved in the collision Thursday that sent bodies and wreckage hurtling into the suburb of Kearns.

Computer printouts of radar data from Salt Lake City International Airport showed the unidentified plane was about three kilometres inside the airport radar service area when the crash occurred, Lauber told a news conference.

Under federal law, planes must notify an airport's control tower before entering the radar service area.

Investigators hope to learn Saturday whether the wayward craft disclosed on the printouts showed up on the airport traffic controllers' radar screens, Lauber said.

On Thursday, a single-engine Mooney M-20c with two experienced pilots aboard slammed into a Skywest Fairchild Metroliner with eight aboard, killing all 10 people.

The Mooney did not contact air traffic controllers and was not detected by radar operations before the collision, but the Skywest plane was in full contact with the tower.

The unidentified plane was detected more than a minute before it and the Skywest plane dropped from radar, Lauber said.

All 10 bodies were recovered by late Thursday, but residents still were finding body parts Friday and deputies said the grisly discoveries could continue for a week.

U.S. recommends limited approval of AIDS treatment

WASHINGTON (R) — A panel of experts from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has voted to recommend that the AIDS drug AZT be approved by the government for marketing to certain patients.

The panel's recommendation is expected to lead to government approval in the near future.

Its recommendation was limited to the treatment of patients with certain infections usually characterised by the presence of AIDS-related pneumonia, and for patients with advanced ARC, or AIDS-related complex, a disease that frequently precedes full scale AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

AZT, a product of Burroughs Wellcome Co. of North Carolina, a subsidiary of London-based Wellcome PLC, is not a cure for AIDS. Company officials say it combats the symptoms of the disease but does not eradicate it.

If approved by the government, AZT would be the first

prescription drug on the U.S. market against AIDS.

In a series of votes following an all-day discussion on AZT held at the FDA's Washington headquarters, the panel concluded that in clinical trials the drug had been shown to benefit individuals with AIDS and ARC.

But it recommended that the FDA assure close patient monitoring in longer-term studies "to resolve important questions about possible adverse effects and efficacy associated with AZT's long-term use."

The committee recommends that the distribution of AZT be tightly controlled, the panel added.

To date, clinical trials have tested tolerance only over a 24-week period.

The panel also recommended more study of the anaemia which has been found during clinical tests to be caused by the drug's suppression of the body's bone marrow, which produces new blood cells.

Seoul opposition claims student tortured to death

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's main opposition party and dissidents charged Saturday that police had tortured a student who died while being interrogated.

The accusations were based on the results of a probe carried out by five lawmakers from the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), party officials said.

Park Chan-Jong, the lawmaker who led the probe, concluded that the death of Park Jong-Chul, 21, was likely to have been caused by "brutal acts, including torture."

The two Parks are not related. Police have claimed that no torture was involved, and said the student died of shock after suddenly fainting during interrogation over alleged anti-government activities.

The body of the student was cremated Friday, two days after he was pronounced dead.

The opposition party, in a statement, said the death was caused by "unpardonable, barbarous acts" resulting from what it called habitual human rights violations by the government of President Chun Doo-Hwan.

The incident was "only the tip of an iceberg," it said.

Kim Hyun-Kyu, the opposition party's floor leader, told reporters the party would call for a special assembly, sitting to debate the issue. But the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) expressed skepticism, noting the case is still in the hands of prosecutors.

Prosecutors have promised that policemen involved will be punished if the death of the student is determined to have been caused by torture.

They said an autopsy was conducted Thursday night but results would not be available until next week.

Bangladesh opposition ends boycott of parliament

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's main opposition party, the Awami League, has ended a boycott of parliament and will attend its winter session beginning next Saturday, party chief Sheikh Hasina announced Saturday.

She told reporters at northern Faridpur town that since President Hussain Mohammad "Ershad has now lifted martial law, there is no reason to keep away from parliament. This time we are going to attend."

Sheikh Hasina, who is also the parliamentary opposition leader, further said, "people have voted for us to speak for them and we must honour their opinion."

Gen. Ershad ended nearly four and a half years of military rule last November after parliament passed a law, in a one-day session, protecting him against prosecution for his role during martial law.

The constitutional amendment law was approved by a vote of 223-0 in the 330-member house as the Awami League and some smaller parties boycotted.

Opposition parties at the time said they would not join parliament before Gen. Ershad fully restored democracy by ending military rule.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in March, 1982, resigned his post as army chief of staff in August and took over as Bangladesh's third elected president after his landslide victory in the Oct. 15 election, which the opposition claimed were tainted.

Moscow discloses strategic weapons levels

LONDON (R) — The Soviet Union has made a rare public disclosure of its strategic weapons levels in what Western experts said looked like an attempt to demonstrate a new policy of openness as U.S.-Soviet arms talks resume in Geneva.

The figures, giving comparative tables of Soviet and U.S. strengths in various nuclear weapon categories, were contained in a military bulletin circulated Friday by the Soviet Novosti Press Agency.

Novosti said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had given them to U.S. President Ronald Reagan when they met in Reykjavik last Oct. 12. The figures, reflecting the situation on Oct. 11, were being published for the first time, it said.

Experts said the statistics largely squared with Western estimates on numbers of long-range missiles, but exaggerated the U.S. lead in heavy bombers and total number of strategic nuclear warheads and bombs.

No figures were given for medium and short-range missiles or battlefield nuclear weapons.

Western analysts, noting that the 22-month-old Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons resumed on Thursday, suggested the publication of the figures was part of Mr. Gorbachev's policy of

"glasnost" or greater openness.

"I'd hesitate to say it was the first time, but it certainly is rare," said Maj. Robert Elliot of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

Soviet authorities, normally secretive on military affairs, have given some strategic arms figures — though seldom in systematic form — at Moscow press conferences and in a pamphlet called "whence the threat to peace?" last published in 1982.

The United States issues figures in an annual report by the joint chiefs of staff and in an annual government publication "Soviet military power."

The statistics published by Novosti largely followed the categories laid down in the 1979 U.S.-Soviet SALT-2 strategic arms limitation treaty, which set common weapons ceilings for the two superpowers, experts said.

They covered inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and long-range bombers.

The Soviet list diverged from Western estimates in allocating 14,800 "charges", or total of bombs and missile warheads, to the United States and 10,000 to Moscow.

The IISS handbook "the military balance 1986-1987," the

leading Western publication in the field, gives figures of 12,846 and 10,716 respectively.

No explanation was given of how Novosti arrived at its figure. Western diplomats suggested it had counted the maximum theoretical loading of bombs on submarines for the United States while counting the actually loaded levels for the Soviet Union.

The other main divergence was in the number of heavy bombers attributed to the United States — 518, compared with 260 counted by the IISS. The Soviet Union has 160.

Experts said Novosti was probably including more than 200 old American B-52 bombers which have been taken out of service but are still accountable under SALT-2 rules.

The experts said minor differences from Western estimates of missile figures were probably explained by the gradual dismantling of obsolete systems by both sides.

The figures published by Novosti (note: MIRV multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle, or multiple warhead):

	USSR	USA
ICBM launchers	1,396	1,018
Including:		
MIRV-equipped ICBM launchers	820	550
SLBM launchers	922	672
Including:		
MIRV-equipped launchers	352	640
Total number of ICBM and SLBM launchers	2,320	1,690
Including:		
MIRV-equipped ICBM and SLBM launchers	1,172	1,190
Heavy bombers	160	518
Including:		
Heavy bombers equipped for cruise missiles	53	127
Total number of ICBM and SLBM launchers and heavy bombers	2,480	2,208
Including:		
ICBM and SLBM launchers and heavy bombers equipped with MIRVs and for cruise missiles	1,225	1,317
Total number of charges carried by the strategic delivery vehicles	10,000	14,800

5 snack bars to open in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Five fast-food outlets capable of dishing up pastries, pizza and American-style "Khaburgers" to 500 people per hour will open in Moscow this year, a newspaper reported Friday. Sovetskaya Rossiya said Muscovites are impressed with reports of quick and tasty meals available in the United States, but that the first snack bars here will be built under contract with firms from Italy, Austria and Sweden. The first outlets, which the newspaper said are "only the beginning," will be located at the city's busiest squares — at two train stations and three subway stations. The brief article gave few details of how the fast food outlets would operate, but they will apparently be run by Soviets and the dishes will be produced with locally available foods.

New Zealand baby named after yacht

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — Why would a father name his new-born daughter "James" and "K2"? If you are a yachtsman and a fan of American singer Johnny Cash, the answer is simple. First, K2 is the name of the New Zealand yacht contesting the America's cup yacht race. Second, and more obscurely, one of Cash's top songs was called "A Boy Named Sue." "Johnny Cash had a boy named Sue. I've got a girl called James," proud father John Cavanagh told reporters. Cavanagh said his Filipina wife's comment on the unusual names was: "She just said she was married to a bloody mad Kiwi." And the baby's full name — Corazon Takau Rose Juliet James K27 Cavanagh. A sister-in-law, not the Philippine president, inspired the first name and the others were taken from friends and relatives.

Dutch not to legalise euthanasia

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch government has decided against asking parliament to legalise euthanasia, the practice of hastening the death of the terminally ill. The cabinet announced its decision after studying an advisory council's recommendation, made six months ago, that it was too soon to change the law to permit mercy killing. The issue has divided The Netherlands, where family doctors are estimated to be involved in 5,000 cases of euthanasia every year. Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers' Christian Democrats and their Liberal coalition partners fell out in public last year when the Liberals sided with the opposition on a bill seeking legalisation of euthanasia, giving it majority support in parliament.

Surrogate mother's appeal rejected

HACKENSACK, New Jersey (AP) — A surrogate mother fighting for custody of a child she bore under contract for a childless couple may not have extended visitation rights, a judge ruled Friday. Judge Harvey Sorkow said that Mary Beth Whitehead must stick to her schedule of twice-weekly, two-hour visits. He said his decision was based in part on expert evaluation of the 9½-month-old baby and that it would be best not to disrupt the girl's daily routine. Sorkow's ruling came during a non-jury trial over whether the surrogate contract that Mrs. Whitehead entered into with William and Elizabeth Stern is enforceable.

Alcohol is dangerous during pregnancy

SEATTLE (AP) — Children born to mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may have shorter attention spans and slower reaction times, according to new results from a long-term study of 1,500 women and their children. The most recent findings of the study, now in its 14th year, focused on 7-year-olds and confirmed previous research, performed at earlier ages, showing the danger of prenatal alcohol exposure to children and their development. In addition to the physical deformities and mental retardation in children caused by mothers' alcohol abuse, the long-term research also has found more subtle effects linked to alcohol, according to Ann Pytkowicz Streissguth, a professor in the University of Washington's department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

Doctor who sold heads held for trial

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A doctor who bought and sold human heads and body parts was ordered to stand trial, but his lawyer said the man was trying to advance medical science, not make a profit. Arraignment for Dr. Martin Spector was scheduled Feb. 6 on charges of criminal conspiracy, unlawful taking of property, theft of body parts and violation of the health code for shipping heads, ears and arms to medical research facilities. "The court rejects the defence argument that body parts are not property," judge Ronald Merriweather ruled in finding there was sufficient evidence to go to trial. "The court feels that it would outrage the sensibility of any family to have a relative's head sold," Merriweather said. "We reject the notion that when a person donates a body to a medical school they expect anything to be done with it and don't want it back."

Force investigating murders reduced

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clues coming in to the task force investigating 17 murders blamed on the southside slayer have dwindled, prompting the sheriff's department to take eight investigators off the case. The move was attacked by the leader of a citizens group that has claimed that authorities have devoted inadequate money and manpower to investigate the slayings because the victims were mostly black and poor. "To talk about reducing the task force is outrageous," said Margaret Prescod, leader of the black coalition fighting black serial murders. "The crimes are not solved. No one knows who's killing who." The task force, has formed by the police department and the sheriff's department a year ago to investigate a string of slayings involving women, most of them prostitutes who had been stabbed or strangled.

Motorist survives smash but gets a 'bill'

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand (R) — Motorist Janet Zrinyi thought she paid the price for a collision with a train last June when she broke her left leg, spine and a dozen teeth in an accident at a level crossing. But New Zealand railway authorities have now also billed her 660 dollars (\$320) for stopping the train. "I can see I would be expected to pay for repairs to the train but most of the bill is for labour. I really don't feel like paying someone else's wages," Zrinyi, 25, told reporters. The railway corporation said it was normal procedure to bill people involved in level crossing accidents.

1st woman AIDS patient reported in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's first identified case of a woman with AIDS was reported in the western port city of Kobe, a Japanese news report has said. The woman, reportedly a prostitute, brings to 26 the number of people in Japan who have been identified as suffering from AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Seventeen of those people already have died. Kyodo news service reported that the health and welfare ministry's AIDS surveillance commission identified the 29-year-old Japanese woman as an AIDS patient. The woman, who was not named, had been hospitalised in Kobe for pneumonia, Kyodo said. A doctor at the hospital said the woman told him she had been a prostitute and had had several foreign customers, it said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WHO'S RIGHT?

If you go down with this hand at rubber bridge, you must be squandering thousands of points each year. You can afford to lose two club tricks and a diamond, and you can assure your contract by simply winning the ace of diamonds and then leading a club from hand at trick two. (Don't hold up the ace, because the opponents might be able to defeat you by shifting to a trump at trick two.) Now there is no way the defenders can stop you from ruffing a club in dummy, limiting your losses to two diamonds and a club.

At duplicate you must consider what the rest of the field will do. Most will be in four hearts, though here and there you might find a three no trump contract, which will make nine tricks on any lead except a club, and ten with a club lead.

If East has the ace of clubs, you can score an overtrick at four hearts. Even if the ace is with West, you can still make four hearts if trumps are 2-2 or in the unlikely event that the defender who wins the second club started with a singleton trump. So it is probably right to win the ace of diamonds, cross to the table with a trump and lead a club to your king. All West has to do is win and return a trump to set your contract.

We have often maintained that rubber bridge and duplicate pairs are more like two different games than two versions of the same game. Consider this hand. Should you make your contract at rubber bridge? At duplicate?

The bidding was old-fashioned but accurate. South's opening two heart bid was strong and North's jump to game showed good trumps but denied a side-suit ace, king or singleton.

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 6 4 3	♠ Q J 10 7	♠ 9 8	♠ K Q 6 4
♥ Q J 9	♥ 8	♥ 7 4 3	♥ K Q 7 4 2
♦ Q 5 3 2	♦ K 10 6 5 4 2	♦ A 7	♦ K 9 3
♣ 8 5	♣ A K	♣ 10 6 5 4 2	♣ A 7

The bidding:
South West North East
2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣